



Table 1. The mean (SD) age, height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) of the participants in each group

Group	Age (years)	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	BMI (kg m ⁻²)
Control	12.5 (0.5)	150.5 (6.5)	45.5 (10.5)	19.8 (3.5)
Low	12.5 (0.5)	150.5 (6.5)	45.5 (10.5)	19.8 (3.5)
High	12.5 (0.5)	150.5 (6.5)	45.5 (10.5)	19.8 (3.5)

control group. The low and high groups were matched to the control group for age, height, weight, and BMI. The low and high groups were also matched to the control group for the number of participants in each gender.

The participants in the low and high groups were matched to the control group for the number of participants in each gender.

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Unlock the Memories

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Unlock The Memories

Merrillvue
Merrillville High School
276 East 68th Place
Merrillville, In 46410

Volume 79
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Keyless Entry

Over the years, we find what is needed to open the door to our success through our minds and our talents.

Day 1 soon becomes day 180 faster than we can believe, leaving us all with a blur of memories of activities from the past year. People share moments during classes, various extracurricular activities, sports teams or during school-sponsored social events. These are the times when people shape memories and remember the good times shared. As time goes on, memories are locked away in a safe place: our hearts. When the right key is found, we can go back and unlock the memories we've developed over time.



Playing the parts of Coalhouse Walker Jr. and Sarah, Seniors A.J. Davis and Marshaena Kendrick sing to each other. They were a part of the fall performance of the musical "Ragtime".

Taking in a faceful of watered-down pudding, Freshman Lauren Stacks hurls herself down the pudding slide to get points for her class. This was one of four activities that were a part of the Goofy Games during Football Homecoming Week.





With only a few seconds of preparation, Junior quarterback Jim Reitz looks down the field as he winds up for a pass. The Pirates won their season home opener, 45-20, against Chicago Dunbar.

Steady hands belonging to Juniors Ronnie Pedraza, Kristen Neese and Kristy Palster hold up Senior Tara Schaab in a 'scorpion.' They were showing their spirit by cheering at the home game against Chicago Dunbar.



Searching for the key

Over the years enemies became friends and friends became family as we held each other's hands and walked through the door to success.

The people in our school are a lot like lockers, but the colors are different like the different classes. They all possess locks, but those locks have different combinations that change every year. While the locker has only one combination, many people can use that combination to open it up and find out what's inside. Some lockers are neat and some are messy, like different personalities. Some have pictures or mirrors on the inside for decoration, while others are bare. No matter what's inside, someone or many people have what it takes to get inside and allow that person to open up. Each year new people come and leave a little bit of themselves with other people.

We bond with each other and form friendships. If we are lucky, the friendships will last forever.



Showing support for the Football Team, Seniors Josh Danahue and Shawn O'Keefe and Junior Justin Little stand in the rain, cheering for the Pirates. More people attended the Homecoming game against LaPorte than any other home game.

Key Club President Melissa Wadley, a senior, and Highland's Key Club sponsor Joan Ray smile as they watch other members in the tree planting activity. "We planted trees to create awareness and to commemorate our fallen heroes," Wadley said.





Halloween was an excuse for Junior Shaun Wood to dress up as Rum Tum Tugger from the musical "Cats." "I'm really into the musical, and that character relates to me the most," Wood said.

Spirited Seniors
Lindsay Williams and
Ricardo Hernandez
participate in Twister
during the Goofy
Games. "The Goofy
Games were fun
because you got to
compete against the
classes and put the
other three classes
down to shame,"
Hernandez said.



The rain cannot stop Senior Shawn O'Keefe from firing up the crowd at the Homecoming football game. O'Keefe never missed a chance to be the center of attention.



on the **EDGE** of spirit

"C
ome on crowd, yell it loud, yell MHS!"

Students bring purple and white Pirate pride out every year. In their own ways, students and faculty commit themselves to being proud of our school.

"Merrillville definitely has school spirit," said Freshman Angela Cost.

To showcase our pride before homecoming, we celebrate a long-lived tradition of Spirit Week. Spirit Week consist of: College Appore Day, Class Color Day, Tie Day, Purple and White Day and Crazy Hair day.

"I participated in Spirit Week every year since I was a freshman," said Senior Donnie Hopson.

Every school has a different theme, a different color and a differer way of showcasing its spirit. There are pep rallies, hallway decorating and many other rituals that students partake in around us.

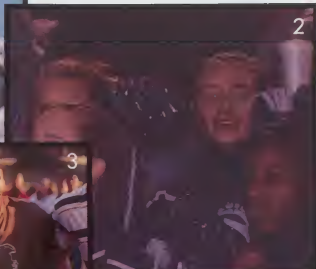
"At my old school we had lots of pep rallies and hall decorating and I think Merrillville should do some of that to get our spirits up," said Senior Rochelle Gunn.

Purple and white are the colors to represent at Merrillville, and r Pirate is our pride. Everything from the lonyards to the gym uniforms aid us in having a spirited school.

"I think our school spirit is high," said Cost. "I just got here or I love MHS."

Rico Merced

can't
HIDE
pride



After a victorious game, this varsity football player speaks for his team as he demonstrates his Pirate Pride. This was the first year since 1993 that the football team has advanced to the Sectional Finals.

During the school's fight song, Junior Sara Lopez and Sophomores Lindsey Alvarez and Elizabeth Ryan sing. The Dance Team is a large part of the student section at home football games.

Participating in the panty hose race, Freshmen Tim Reddick, Katrina Makarounas and Stephen Jewart inch toward the finish line. The Goofy Games are a school tradition during Homecoming week.

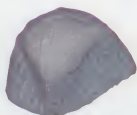
During the pre-game of the Homecoming game, Sophomores Dale VanVleet and Allana Fleck and Freshman George Niksch play the National Anthem. The Marching Band practiced all summer in order to prepare for games and competitions.

Screaming fans, Seniors Rebecca Parrish and Rebecca Ternes support the Pirate team. Many students show their pride by dying their hair or wearing purple.

Freshmen cheerleaders and varsity football players ride together in the Homecoming Parade down Broadway. This was the first year the football players were excused from practice to be in the parade.

Get it while it's hot...

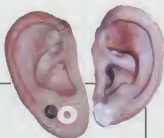
Get it while it's hot...



Many guys sport their favorite jerseys from various sports, including football, basketball and baseball teams. Students even created a day especially for wearing jerseys and called it "Throw Back Thursday."



Some students choose to express their personalities with permanent tattoos. When choosing tattoos, students find the possibilities are endless. Some students even go so far as to design their own tattoos.



Some of the guys choose sparkling rhinestones, while others choose to gauge their ears. Most choose styles that fit their personalities.





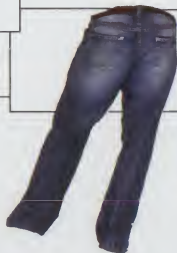
Taking a break from everyday apparel, girls choose to sport trendy, yet comfortable, sweatsuits. This look, inspired by Jennifer Lopez, is one that many girls turn to, especially when comfort is in mind.



Making an old pair of jeans stylish is easy with a pair of scissors. When stores such as Hollister started coming out with jeans with rips and holes, girls soon realized they too could easily create their own special jeans.



Bringing back the reigning trend from the '80s, many girls now wear large hoop earrings. No longer is there a limit to how big in diameter earrings have to be. They are worn in different colors as well.



Rooms that rock

Relax, kick back and let the good times roll

Individuals have some form of creativity within themselves. Many people express their creativity in several different ways.

Senior Nicole Lagalo demonstrates her creative side by decorating her room in a stylish way. Along with Lagalo, many other students decorate their rooms because they feel their rooms represent their individuality and their personality.

Lagalo said, "The pastel colors on my bedroom walls and the drope hanging over my bed represents the mellow person that I am."

People are inspired to change their rooms because they feel they need a change or simply see an idea in a magazine and decide to copy it. People decorate their rooms because they feel it relaxes their bedroom environment.

Senior Lindsey Harreld said, "The comfortable chair and bed in my room makes the environment in my room feel relaxing."

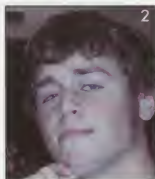
Rooms are usually decorated according to a hobby a person pursues. Junior Daniel Burkus said, "The snowboards in my room represent my passion for my favorite hobby."

Even though decorating a room is fun, it is also very time consuming. Lagalo says, "It took me about a month to decorate my room and to make all the finishing arrangements."

Students decorate their rooms because they spend a lot of their time doing homework, reading or basically just relaxing in their bedrooms.

Lagalo and Harreld both plan on keeping their creative room ideas when they move into their college dorms next year.

Overall, people decorate their rooms because they feel it symbolizes their uniqueness, and they want their rooms to have a peaceful atmosphere.



Joanne Flores

Which room is mine?

I thought it was too plain and I decided to put pictures all over my walls



My room is tight. It's a big room, so all my friends can chill together



I'm comfortable, casual, yet trendy. And no one else is like it

I saw Kristi Pawlowski's beautiful face and I wanted a beautiful room. I like the safari theme!



My room is fun and trendy and it reflects my personality

Sticking together



Working together as President and Vice President of the French Club, Seniors Lindsey Harrel and Jan Warga stick by each other's side at the Homecoming parade. Harrel commented, "Jan and I have been best friends since seventh grade. We know each other inside and out, and we fight like siblings."

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

— Muhammed Ali

Students know what makes a good friend.

**Honesty. Loyalty.
Good sense of humor.
Good communication.**

Seniors Melissa Velazca and Elizabeth Danelson, friends since middle school, agree that friends typically have similar personalities and share common ground. "A friend should be trustworthy, understanding and easy to get along with," Velazca said. Danelson added, "Loyalty is a big component in friendships. And they gotta be optimistic."

**Taking the blame. Caring
for one another. Trust.**

Seniors Jack Neylan and Andy Christopher have been friends for five years. They recall meeting in art class and have been inseparable ever since. They have helped each other in so many ways, including getting each other jobs and helping out with school work. Neylan said, "A friend is someone who makes me feel warm inside." "I like making friends with people who have cool stuff," added Christopher. On the weekends, they say they spend time together "freaking out the normals and baking cookies."

**Accepting each other, faults and all. Giving good advice.
Being there when the rest of the world turns its back.**

High school gets tough at times because students have so much to balance between schoolwork, sports, jobs, friends and, sometimes, relationships. Senior Missy Paniaguas commented that some friendships are ruined when a friend "ditches you for awhile for some stupid little boy." Another factor that sometimes causes friends to go their separate ways is dishonesty. Megan Kars, senior and best friend of Paniaguas, agreed and said, "It's kinda aggravating when I tell some of my friends some confidential stuff and they fail to keep it a secret."

Dropping everything on the spot to help each other.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Michelle Sulich recalled when her friend and colleague, Mrs. Michelle Wilson, asked her to watch her children. Wilson needed a caregiver while she took summer classes on a college campus. For five weeks Mrs. Sulich dropped her summer plans to relax, and instead she babysat three little ones. "When you are 36 years old and have no children, it's kind of a shock to your system."

Perhaps a group of vultures in Disney's "The Jungle Book" sang it best, "That's what friends are for."



Bridging the gap between grade levels, Freshman Carina Alderson and Senior Tiara Barker share a moment of laughter in the hallway. On many occasions Alderson and Barker have spent their weekends together hanging out.

"True friendship multiplies the good in life and divides its evils. Strive to have friends, for life without friends is like life on a desert island . . . to find one real friend in a lifetime is good fortune; to keep him is a blessing."

—Baltasar Gracian



Spending some time together during lunch, Juniors Kristi Pawlawski and Tricia Lakatos share a friendly peck with Kristen Neese. Being members of the cheerleading squad, the girls have bonded and have gotten to know each other in and outside of cheerleading.



With eyes glued to the television screen, Juniors Daniel Burkus and Andrew Pritt battle each other in a Playstation game. "I've been friends with my boys since I was younger because they've always been there for me, and we have a good time together. We hang out, play football and play cards," Pritt stated.

Best friends, Sophomores Jeremy Billingsley and Chad Dawson relax and take a break from an afternoon of shopping. "We've grown up together and have lived by each other our whole lives," Billingsley said. "We basically know everything about each other."

With extra time between classes, Juniors Danielle Nikrin and Nicole Steriavski take some time to catch up on the day's events. With such a huge school and conflicting schedules, passing period allows students to spend time with friends that they normally would not see during class.

Hooked on you



The "how
you
doing?"
Translation:
"I've
noticed
you."

The "hair flip."
Translation:
"Look at me."



The "win."
Translation: "I've got this girl already."

Girls are whiny. Boys
Boys are difficult.
Girls are confused.
BOYS ARE DUMB.
Girls are sweet.
Boys are strong.
BOYS ARE MEAN.



Size doesn't matter in this battle of the sexes. Senior Coral Newell takes down her classmate, Brandon Mosley, in the traditional test of strength, arm wrestling.

are not men.

Girls are talkative.

Boys smell.

Boys are goofy.

are annoying.

ys are impossible.

s smell nice.



We love them, we hate them, we cannot live without them, but we just cannot seem to figure them out — members of the opposite sex. Their moods confuse us and their actions annoy us. Girls wonder why guys act so immaturely and emotionlessly when they are around their friends. Guys try to decode the mixed signals that girls send them and attempt to understand why girls go to the bathroom together in large groups. Let's face it, trying to understand the mysteries behind our counterparts' actions is the most difficult thing that teens have to figure out in their high school years. Some sage teens may think that figuring out the opposite sex is a walk in the park. For others, trying to understand the mysteries of the opposite sex will be an ongoing and lifelong struggle.

Dating for nearly five years, Seniors Tianna Coleman and A.J. Davis would seem to have the opposite sex figured out by now. The surprise is that they do not. Davis claimed, "The most confusing and annoying thing about girls is that they can't make up their minds! They always change their minds no matter what the situation is." Coleman fired back and said, "Boys claim that girls have two different personalities when we're around certain people, but they do it too." Apparently things have not changed over the last few decades with confusion and annoyance that accompany the mysteries of members of the opposite sex. Math teacher Mrs. Nancy Draper explained, "Back when I was in high school, unless you were romantically involved with someone, you wouldn't get asked to dances or out on dates. You had to be going out with someone in order to go anywhere with them." Things seemed a little bit easier for English teacher Mr. John Lambersie who claimed, "There was nothing confusing about girls at Portage High School because I knew it all."

Jacqueline Barsich

What's your pick-up line?



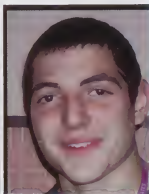
"If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put 'U' and 'I' together."

J'hrome Tuggle
Senior



"I lost my phone number. Can I have yours?"

Kacey Loudermilk
Freshman

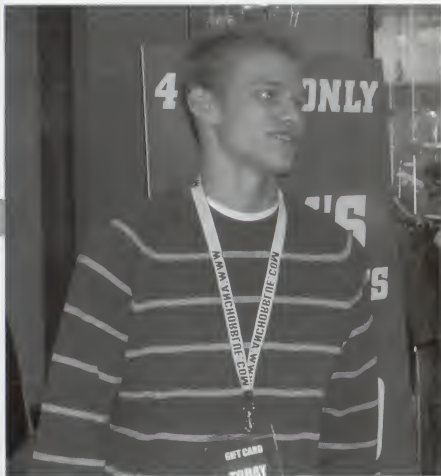


"Do you believe in love at first sight, or do you want me to walk by again?"

Phillip Keene
Sophomore

At TCBY, Junior Andrea Rainold hands a cone to a customer. Rainold commented, "I enjoy working there because my co-workers are really nice."

During a big sale at Anchor Blue, Senior Andy Christopher greets customers as they enter the store. Between going to school and working about 15 hours a week, Andy says he still finds time to have fun with friends.



Providing customer service is a major part of Senior Vince Roger's job at Strack & Von Till. He said he often gets tired of bagging groceries and taking them to peoples' cars.



Sitting in front of the computer, Junior Kristen Neese keeps busy by answering the phone and making appointments at her workplace, Beauty Expressions. She found her typing skills to be beneficial with her work as a receptionist.





Working together, Seniors Jaanne Flores and Michelle Danko help a shopper with her purchase at Divas in the mall. The girls agree that teamwork is a successful element in any business.

On the job

Work, work, work. Whether it's in school or out, students have a job to do. Students work at after-school jobs to help them pay for luxuries and necessities alike. Stereo systems, cell phones, designer clothes and makeup send many teenagers in search of a job. Many flip burgers and sweep floors to pay for everything from car insurance to clothing. Even though a job might not be enjoyable, working has become a necessity for some teens. "My parents sort of made me get a job, but I kind of wanted one anyway," said Senior Justin Moore, an employee at Old Navy.

Making money isn't always for luxuries; some people are starting their adulthood by entering the job market. "I have to pay rent and sometimes buy clothes," said Sophomore Angelina Mast, a restaurant waitress. Starting a career can be hard work for some, but for others it is a necessity for life.

Having a job, doing schoolwork and even getting the proper amount of sleep can be tough to handle all at once. "If you can keep your priorities straight, you will be set," said Senior Angela Merritt, a salesperson at Limited 2.

A few years ago most teens worked at a McDonald's or Burger King rather than for a telephone company or in an office. As times change, so do the desires of young adults to be employed.

Today's teen realizes that work makes the money and money pays for the things the teen wants or needs.

Teens are in the work force and supplying for themselves and their families in this day and age. As the old saying goes, the kids of the new millennium are "bringing home the bacon."

Rico/Merced



Subway worker Deshunda Jones, a senior, puts on her gloves so she can begin preparing sandwiches. Jones stated, "I used to love their sandwiches, but I'm getting sick of them since I'm constantly working with the food."

Senior Thomas Vechey and his girlfriend of two years, Junior Danielle Nikrin, went snorkeling in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This is their first time vacationing together for Spring Break.



During Spring Break, with his mother and his grandfather at his side, Senior Trent Harris signs a letter of intent to play football at the University of Indianapolis. Coach Jeff Yelton said, 'I am extremely proud of Trent's accomplishments.' Harris was named Mr. Football for the 2003 season.



While waiting in line, Seniors Ashley Berger and Carol Newell stand next to a character from the 'Men in Black' ride at Universal Studios in Florida. This might be their last Spring Break together before they separate for college.

Time for a break break

Senior Brandon Robertson strikes a pose on a boulder near Mission Beach in San Diego, California. Robertson makes trips once a year to California to visit his older brother.



The noise level emerging from classrooms elevates, more and more homework slips are issued and smiles become permanent fixtures upon the faces of many students. What could be the reason for all of this chaos? Break, of course!

Along with half days and four-day weekends, students look forward to Spring Break and Christmas Break with great anticipation.

Christmas Break lasts for two weeks and includes Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. For Christmas Break some students left the state in search of a warmer climate. Senior Brandon Robertson left the chilly town with his family, hopped on a plane and flew west to the popular vacationing spot, San Diego, California. Although he and his family wanted to ditch the cold winter air, they also went because Brandon's older brother lives there. "I had a lot of fun while living in California for two weeks and I would definitely like to return someday," said Robertson.

Although local temperatures during Spring Break were a bit less harsh, the air was still chilly, sending more students to hot vacation spots. Seniors Heather Casady, Megan Kors, Jennifer Mustafa and Melissa Paniaguas all decided to get away from their everyday lives and travel to Marco Island, Florida. While in Florida the girls stayed in Casady's grandparent's condo. However, soon after their arrival the girls all caught the flu and were not able to leave the house for a couple of days. The days that they were not sick in bed, the four of them sun bathed at the nearby beach, went to local shopping malls and even danced at a local Mexican restaurant. "One of the best parts about being in Florida was driving around in Heather's grandpa's Mustang," stated Kors.

Not only did students vacation with friends and family but some traveled with school groups. Members of the Jazz Band went to New Orleans, Louisiana, where they played at Washington Artillery Park. For three days they experienced a lot of sight seeing and toured the French Quarter. Senior Neil Osborne enjoyed his time there but stated, "I would never want to move down there because it is a lot different than what I am used to."

Not all students were able to get away during their breaks but still found ways to have fun. Many students spent time with friends and family while going to the movies, mall and local restaurants. Others found more time to work at their jobs. Senior Shay Kuzma stated, "I was able to work a lot more during both breaks in order to earn some extra cash." Whether students went on exotic vacations or stayed here they were all able to take a break from homework, quizzes and tests.



Junior Rebecca Kohler and Senior Dominic Angotti pet a baby alligator during a three-hour swamp cruise in New Orleans, Louisiana. They were on their annual band trip during Spring Break.

What is your path after graduation?

The yearbook staff surveyed 200 students about where their future plans will lead them.

College, in state	58%
College, out of state	18%
Trades	10%
Other	8%
Military	3%
Work force	3%



Packing up, leaving home and being on their own is a huge transition for recent high school graduates. Senior Ashley Dallas, who will go to Purdue University, West Lafayette, to major in elementary education, said, "The things I'm looking forward to are meeting new people and being on my own."



During lunch, Army representatives, Private Izonia Chism and Pfc. Tim Price, talk with Senior Pavle Jankuloski about his plans for the future. Pfc. Price said, "The Army pays for college, insurance and medical bills, and you get job training for a guaranteed job."



Come fall, Sophomore Janel Barsich will be among four MHS students to attend the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities on the Ball State University campus in Muncie. While attending the school, Barsich will live in a dorm, take accelerated classes and enjoy a lifestyle similar to college students.

While sitting in Mrs. Michelle Sulich's office, Senior Melissa Wadley goes over her college application. Wadley will attend school out of state next year at the University of Tampa in Florida.



Key steps

to the future

Set goals. Study hard. Prepare for standardized tests. Take college preparatory classes. Visit universities. Each one of these statements answers this question: How can a high school student prepare for life after graduation? With all the activities during a student's senior year come important choices that will affect his or her entire life. These decisions are crucial to help set the path of one's future. While many students choose to attend college after high school, other adolescents decide to take other routes. Going to college can prove to be beneficial. Before one leaves, he or she must do some fundamental planning. Many students have already decided where they will be attending college in the fall of 2004.



Some senior athletes will trade in their purple and white uniforms to play in college. Senior Julie Collins will play soccer on a partial scholarship from the University of Southern Indiana.

Many students will leave friends behind. Lindsey Harreld said, "It makes me sad that I'm not going to see them all everyday, but I'll still visit." Harreld plans to attend Indiana University in Bloomington and she intends to study French. One of her main fears is not knowing her roommate.

Jonathan Warus will be rooming with one of his MHS classmates, Jon Wargo, at Purdue University in West Lafayette. Warus wants to study chemistry and eventually either pharmaceutical research or forensic science. "It's reassuring to have people you know close with you throughout your college experience," said Warus, though he cannot wait to meet new people. For his summer before college, he plans to work at Deep River Waterpark to earn some extra spending money.

With the increasing prices of post-secondary institutions, parents and children come together to figure out ways to pay for college. One method of assistance is from scholarships. With the various scholarships that are now offered, students can apply for scholarships that will cover at least part of the costs.

With college comes a new sense of freedom. This freedom will let students choose what they want to study. Many students are overwhelmed with numerous responsibilities as college comes in to the picture. Guidance Counselor Michelle Sulich comments, "College will definitely be a challenge." Her best advice is for students to stay on top of their academics and get involved in activities on campus. For students who have no clue what to study, she recommends they consider those subjects in which they excel. She advises that students begin preparing for college once they enter high school, striving to meet all of the various requirements.

Leaving the State of Indiana, Renee Hatcher plans on studying philosophy at California State University. Family in California will ease the transition of moving across the country. Her aunt owns a company for which she will be interning this summer. "I like putting myself out of my comfort zone. It's a challenge that I can't wait to experience," she commented. When asked why she chose Cal State as a college, Hatcher said, "I could stay around Indiana and go to Indiana University like a lot of my friends, but I enjoy the culture of California and the fact that there is so much to do there."



Senior Michelle Danko keeps up with the scholarship board in the Guidance Office. She has already received the Earnest S. Wheaton Scholarship from her mother's place of employment. Regarding college, Danko said, "I can't wait for the freedom of being able to choose what classes I want to take."

As he listens to Mr. Miles Dunscombe's lecture in AP Physics, Senior Greg Ross, a Lilly Endowment Scholarship recipient, takes notes. Ross, who will attend Purdue University in West Lafayette to study engineering, said, "I'm glad I got the Lilly because I wouldn't be able to afford to go to college otherwise. I was relieved when I got the letter saying I got it."

What are your plans after high school graduation and why?



"I'm going to St. Joseph's in Rensselaer to play baseball. I decided to go there because they offered me a scholarship to play and they have a good criminal justice program."

Jason Prys, Senior



"Next year I'll be going to Indiana University Northwest to study nursing. I'm staying home because I don't want to leave my mom."

Tiffany McCouley, Senior



"I'm going into the U.S. Navy and I'm going to be a helicopter pilot. Being in the Navy runs in my family, so it was the natural thing to do."

Alec Reeder, Senior



Paving a different future

I WANT YOU

Purdue, Indiana, Butler or Ball State University. These are some of the choices students have to make their senior year. Some decide to take a different path. A number of students choose to enlist in the military, whether it is the Army, Air Force, Navy or the Marines. Senior Greg Branda stated, "It is a stable environment, where I can learn to manage my time." Branda is hoping for an appointment to the Air Force Academy to learn to be a fighter pilot. "I want to be like Maverick, even though he was in the Navy," Branda added.

Many join for the money they will earn for college. Mr. Sean Meagher of the Mathematics Department joined the National Guard June 2, 1993, for two specific reasons; he wanted to serve his country

while making money for college. "You get 100 percent college tuition paid," Meagher stated. "I think it is definitely worth it."

Senior Julian Scott enlisted in the National Guard and plans to join the Army soon after graduation. "I always wanted to be like the people who wore this uniform," he said.

Many still join even though their lives may be in jeopardy. Branda stated, "I would be nervous at first to be sent to Iraq, but I would get over it because it is my job."

Though many think about joining, some are afraid to make that decision. Scott has a bit of advice for seniors contemplating military service. "Go for it. If you believe in yourself do it. Don't ever doubt yourself."

Nicole Stampar

Q & A

Why do you want to join the military?



"It is something that I always wanted to do."

Brandon Miller
Senior



"So I could prove myself, and be all that I can be."

Shawn O'Keefe
Senior



"Because I want to fight for my country."

Vance Gidley
Sophomore



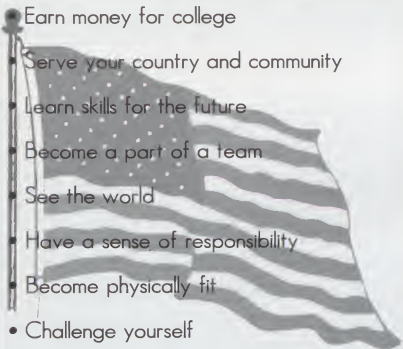
"It will help me pay for college."

Teneka Kindred
Junior



Ten reasons to join the military

- Earn money for college
- Serve your country and community
- Learn skills for the future
- Become a part of a team
- See the world
- Have a sense of responsibility
- Become physically fit
- Challenge yourself
- Wear a cool uniform
- Be an American hero



Counter clockwise from top left: Standing at attention, Senior Julian Scott ponders the future as he plans to enter the National Guard. "I was nervous at first, but it felt good because my friends didn't have the guts to do it," Scott said. As he thinks about his decision to enter the Air Force, Senior Greg Branda gazes at the "Wall of Honor" where pictures and current addresses of MHS graduates currently serving in the Military are posted. "It's a family tradition," said Branda. "My man was in the Air Force, and my grandfathers were in the Air Force." Showing off his strength and endurance, Junior Jeremy Adamson does a push-up to impress Sergeant Kendrick of the Marines. Recruiters from different branches of the military frequently visit the school to talk to students and answer any questions.

Turning our lives around

The memories of the past will mold
our **future** into the present.
We will look back to our friends
and loved ones to give us **strength**
to walk through the new doors
of our lives.

Everyday opens a new door for the
future. The choices we make and the
people we know are like keys to open the
doors, and the memories we have are the
doorway. Freshmen year, we take our first
step through that door which changes our
lives forever. Sophomore year, we walk along
the hallway where we build relationships and
memories. Junior year, our steps became faster
when we realize that the future is about to
become the present. Finally senior year rolls
around and we take that last step at the end
of the hallway through the final door which
our future lays. The memories we make over
the years will change us and complete us.



Sitting in the Guidance Office, Freshman
Lindsay Pallard chats with her peers. The
Guidance Office staff offers information
about scholarships and the chance to discuss
students' futures with a guidance counselor.

Listening to her Spanish teacher,
Mrs. Josefina Parapat, Senior
Khalisa Williams learns the
language. Many students take
this elective class to broaden their
knowledge of culture.





Throwing his hands up in victory, Senior Brandon Masely participates in the Senior Hot Legs Contest. This event is just one of many during the Basketball Homecoming half time show, including the crowning of the Homecoming Queen and a routine performed by the school's Pom Poms.



Using their strength, Junior Adam Morris and Freshmen Brian Paucher and Kyle Morris show off their break dancing skills and end by flipping the younger Morris into the air. Many students come together to watch the talent of the school at the annual "Revue."

Principals

Dear Class of 2004:

Each time I sit down to write this farewell message to a graduating class, I have an abundance of mixed feelings. From the vantage point of principal, I have the honor of getting to know students from every level of each class. I see the students who receive the accolades and who are at the top of the class, and on the other hand, I see the students who are challenged in their high school careers. During the four years of high school, the transition from adolescent to adult is never more evident. The choices students and their parents make in collaboration with the school last; for many, their entire lives.

This fall, I watched history come alive in "Ragtime, the Musical". This story chronicled a difficult period in our history, but through it all, there were heroes left in our memories. There are those teachers and administrators who will have been your heroes during your four years of high school. When you look back upon your high school years, you will recall with fondness the successes you have had and, when times were difficult how a "hero" appeared to assist you. The dreams and aspirations that you have and those that helped to make them possible will be what you will most remember from this time in your lives. The other memory will be the many friendships that helped shape your high school experience.

There may be many challenges ahead for you while you are finding your way after high school. The heroes that you have found at the high school will always be happy to assist you. It is my wish that all of you will find success in your endeavors in the post-high school world.

Dr. Mark Sperling

"During the four years of high school, the transition from adolescent to adult is never more evident"
Dr. Mark Sperling

"There is nothing as satisfying as fond memories."
Dr. Anthony Lux



Mark B. Sperling, Ed.D.



John Jennings



Janice Murray-Minor



David DeMuth



Michael Krutz

School Board and Administrators



Thomas G. Bainbridge



Mark S. Lucas



Ronald J. Mayersky



Scott Rosenbalm



Donna Stath



Michael J. Berta, Jr.



Gale Gruyer



Ronald L. Price



Dr. Anthony Lux

There is nothing as satisfying as fond memories. As seniors graduate, minds are filled with the memories of the past four years. The good times, the difficult times, they all come rushing back. And they come rushing back with the satisfaction of knowing that all has been accomplished, all is well.

So many different people have been part of those memories. Friends, classmates, teachers, parents and relatives have all played a role in creating those memories. How wonderful it is now, and how wonderful it will be in the future, to have a place, a book, to which to turn to bring those memories back to life.

These memories will bring to mind how much has been accomplished. These same memories will be both the explanation for, and the building blocks for, the creation of new achievements, new memories.

Congratulations on the fond memories that have already been, and good luck in your future, the cradle of all of your new memories to be.

Tony Lux
Superintendent of Schools

Faculty and Staff



Janet Anderson
Art



Joe Atrio
Science



Nancy Backes
Guidance



Michelle Barker
Science



Amber Boron
Social Studies



Tony Bortolomeo
Science



Amy Beckham
Athletic Director



Carrie Bedwell
English



Rob Bedwell
Social Studies



Tom Beebe
Social Studies



Wade Boise
Math



Jonelle Bowen
Media Center



John Bradford
Music



Alon Brando
Math



Doris Brown
Special Education



Mark Ciesielski
PNN Director



Andreo Clousen
Student Teacher



Adam Conard
Science



Kim Cormon
Special Education



Larri Covaou
English



Ingo Dainton
Science



Michelle De St. Jean
Student Teacher



Dwayne Deyoung
Business



Barb Dlouhy
Special Education



Stephanie Dore
Science



Nancy Draper
Math



Miles Dunscombe
Science



Lori Dust
Physical Education



Richard Ebler
Social Studies



Roger Emig
Music



Sharon Estes
English



Erin Flores
English



Brigitte Floyd
Nurse



Drew Furness
Guidance Director



Rick Garner
Technical Education



Beth Gillespie
Math



Charles Gleason
Special Education



Rachel Garman
Freshmen Academy



Courtney Hardin
English



Anthony Hofer
Social Studies



Randy Horka
Special Education



Sean Hudson
Physical Education



Rick Hurey
Technical Education



Tim James
Math



Curtis Johnston
English



Darle Johnston
Technical Education



James Johnston
Technical Education



Lee Johnston
English



Kathy Jones
Special Education



Sandra Karaffa
Student Teacher



Jo Ann Karlin
F&CS



Jerrold Kasarda
English



Irene Kelsey
Special Education



Elizabeth Kenyan
Science



Tony Klimczak
English



Rosellen Kozel
Special Education



Kristi Krooswyk
Physical Education



Danny Lackey
Guidance



Maggie Lain
Physical Education



John Lambersie
English



Connie Lewis
English



Luis Lopez
Science



Bob Mackovskyk
Technical Education



Paula Madura
Study Hall



Robert Maicher
Math



David Maldonado
Global Languages



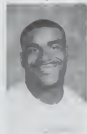
Diane Mandon
Social Studies



Dan Marcus
Social Studies



Sean Meagher
Math



Wilber Milhouse
Physical Education



Debbie Monix
English



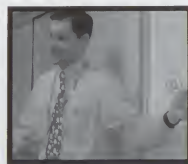
Sally Morgan
Science



A former baseball player and current football and baseball head coach, Mr. Zac Wells teaches U.S. History 2 and History of War



Students in Mrs. Maryann Bertram's classes learn Spanish. Mrs. Bertram is also the sponsor of the Spanish Club.



Logarithms, functions and equations are all algebraic expressions students learn in Mr. Scott Staley's math classes. Mr. Staley also coaches the Academic Decathlon and Quiz Bowl teams.



A former 9th grade English teacher, Mrs. Shirley Renner is a guidance counselor. Mrs. Renner has been with the Merrillville schools for 32 years.



During class Mr. Bill Idzior is all business teaching geometry and pre-calculus, after he tells stories of animals bowling and fruit horror stories. Students have been entertained by these stories for years.



Helping out students is the name of Mrs. Maria Lopez's game. She is always ready to sit down and listen to a teenager's concerns.



Patrick Mulloy
Social Studies



Bob Myers
Music



Gail Nicolini
Math



Jennifer Niksch
Math



Andrew Niksch
Business



Richard Ohlenkamp
Math



Debby Onka-Brazys
Science



Rick Parker
Special Education



Ben Parrish
Science



Brian Past
English



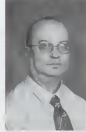
Kathleen Peters
Math



Maryetta Petras
Science



Josefina Poropat
Global Languages



Steven Prather
Technical Education



Terry Pratt
Art



Tania Price
Physical Education



Teresa Procter
English



Janis Qualizza
Athletic Director



Janet Rattazzi
F&CS



Shelley Ray
F&CS



Melinda Reinhart
Music



Kay Ross
Special Education



Bonnie Sanders
Global Languages



Kira Scheub
Math



Pam Schilling
Media Services



Violet Schmuck
Math



Beverley Seaver
English



Chas Selgman
Math



James Simon
Special Education



Rosa Smith
Permanent Substitute

Now in her 30th year teaching at Merrillville, Mrs. Beverly Ambrozak teaches consumer economics, accounting and introduction to business. Her leisure time activities include pinocle, pinball, bowling and reading.





Irene Spira
Global Languages



Debra Stafford
Math



Craig Stafford
Social Studies



Margaret Stallings
F&CS



James Stamper
Social Studies



Jean Stanford
English



Evelyn Steiner
Global Languages



Al Staner
Global Languages



Michelle Sulch
Guidance



Melissa Szczerba
Special Education



Dave Teeler
Technical Education



Richard Terpstra
English



Derek Thompson
Freshmen Academy



Melissa Valkman
English



Carol Van Bühren
F&CS



Sue Whitlock
Special Education



Madeline Wilson
Global Languages



Jeff Yelton
Science



Dave Zimmerman
Business



Mr. Mike Hoffman teaches Algebra to students during the school day and coaches the boys' cross country team after school. During the spring, he assists Coach Jim Johnston with the boys' track team as the distance coach.

Mr. Terpstra notes changes over time



Mr. Richard Terpstra retired this year after teaching in the Merrillville schools for 30 years.

Where was the first place you taught?

At Harrison Middle School. I taught in the Merrillville School System my whole career.

Why did you start teaching?

Because of my love for literature. I wanted to continue studying it, and also, my wife at the time would not accept my marriage proposal before I had a stable job.

What issues were around when you first started?

It was not too different from today. There were still drugs and discipline problems we had to deal with.

Would you still teach if you could start all over again?

No, because it used to be a place to learn, now it is a place to compete. It is hard to teach in the midst of all that.

What advice would you give new teachers?

To be flexible and respect all people.

Nicole Stampor

Media Center

Donna Phelps, Patricia Smith,
Janelle Bowen, Director



Guidance Department

Cheryl Albers, Vicki Paulnitz,
Sharon Jones, Judy Vassallo



Day Maintenance

Front Row: Lillie Wright,
Angie Knezevic, Joy Varela;
Back Row: Joe Jurisa, Don Hickman



Evening Maintenance

Front Row: Chris Haverly, Dragica
Kovacevic, Lenka Pejaski, Nada Kolar,
Donna Rodriguez; 2nd Row: Milica
Sormaz, Helen Moravskij, Nisa
Milosavljevic, Mary Rhone; 3rd Row:
Charles J. Stanford, Mark Robinson,
Paul Moravskij, Robert Fernanado;
Back Row: Nikola Volarevic, Zoran
Stefanovic, Tim Cooper.





Main Office

Front Row: Debbie Klippel, Linda Hall;
Back Row: Carol Hogan, Sue Gaines, Lynn Herrera



Athletic Office

Nikki Jusko, Missy Bushemi



Student Services

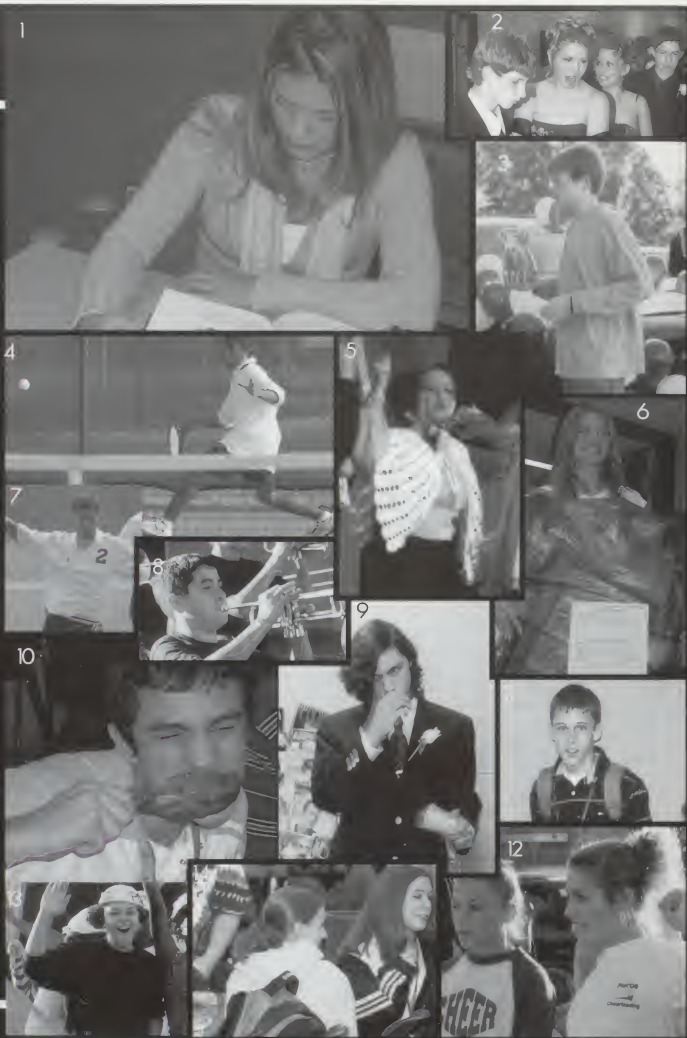
Too busy to leave the office and take a staff picture, Linda Hall and Cheryl Ursery work in Student Services, taking care of students all day long. They keep track of student attendance, tardies, and homework slips.



Security

Front Row: Larry Juzwick, Rose Pulliam, Pat Clark;
Back Row: Ronald Thomas, Nicole Kendrick

Class of '07



1 Kelley Cooper 2 Kyle Yarnell, Christina Lobodinski, Megan Hutchinson and David Lobodinski 3 Brandon Fies 4 Ashish Arshanapali 5 Carla Emmett 6 Megan Hutchinson 7 Aleks Rastevski 8 Geoffrey Sperling 9 Patrick Geeze 10 Name Damjanoski 11 Nathan Westphal 12 Angela Cast and Brienne Woodward 13 Malsha Spencer 14 Caitlin DeCourcy and Jessica Fenik



Jafer Abdul-Hafiz
 Jarad Abdul-Hafiz
 Dannah Abel
 John Ackermann
 Cassandra Adler
 Maxwell Akenten
 Enika Akinrinde
 Carina Alderson
 Richard Aleman
 Salahuddin Ali
 Antonette Allen
 Ebonie Allen
 Leslie Allen
 Jessica Alvarez
 Glamara Alvear
 Ashley Amey
 Andrew Anderson
 Arielle Anderson
 Martrice Anderson
 Valerie Angatti
 Aaron Apin
 Cordero Arce
 Dan Arce
 Joseph Arce
 Michael Arizmendi
 Ashish Arshanapalli
 Maricela Ayala
 Anaceli Babilania
 Desiree Babilania
 Jenna Bosiden
 Greg Baker
 Johnathon Baker
 Paris Baker
 Matthew Bone
 Courtney Banks
 Amber Barnes
 Robert Barnes
 Dennis Barsich
 Cynthia Bolista
 Floyd Boylor
 Jeff Beason
 Brett Beatty
 Hally Bechwald
 Tiffany Begala
 Javette Bell
 Letitia Bella
 Rudy Benham
 Taneen Bennett
 Rodney Berden
 Lisa Bergin
 Donald Bhe
 Charles Biffie
 Bryan Birmingham
 Chris Blackwell
 Veeshia Blair
 Sirena Blas
 Jessica Blue
 Kyle Bonick
 Kenneth Borman II
 Jacyln Boskamp
 Blaine Bounds
 Arneece Bowen
 Henry Bradley
 Gregory Branham
 Aris Brown
 Jahlik Brown
 Jocelyn Brown
 Matthew Brown
 Tashun Brown
 Theodore Brown
 Ty Sheena Brown
 Pamela Brusven

What is your idea of the perfect dream date?

"After school, lunch at McDonald's, everyone would be served 99 cent McChickens and followed up by McFlurries. I would pay."



Tim Reddick

"Go to Italy, ride the gondolas through the river and then go out to eat."



Natasha Janakievski

"I would go to downtown Chicago and take a long walk on the beach."



Nome Damjanoski

"Have a candlelight dinner on the beach."



Sara Furman

Jeremy Bryant
Mychaela Bryant
Natalie Bryson
Brett Bullock
Caitlyn Bunch



Christopher Burke
Steven Burney
Nicole Burress
Timothy Cagle
Anthony Cain



Charlese Calhoun
Michael Cameron
Justin Camisa
Alan Camper
Larann Carey



Brianna Carter
Joshua Carter
Krysten Casey
Angela Cast
Michele Castra



Colton Church
Michael Churilla
Kevin Clark
Chelsea Coachman
Kelley Cooper



Katelyn Corman
Mary Cuchi
Andrea Cunningham
Cassie Currier
Kaitlyn Dafek



Cody Dallas
Nome Damjanoski
Mark Daniel
Sherman Daniels III
Melissa Darang



Elizabeth Ann Davis
Gena Lynn Davis
La Thay Davis
Drew Dawson
Caitlin DeCourcey



Benjamin Delacruz
Gregory Demetrakis
Michael Demeuse
Lyndsay Deming
Michelle Deming





Benjamin Diaz
 Cindy Diaz
 Brandy Dieterle
 Jennifer Dietrich
 Raldrick Dix
 Mary Dixon
 Natasha Djukic
 James Donald
 Melissa Dooley
 Matthew Douglas
 Vokan Drljaca
 Cherelle Dunn
 Danna Dunn
 Jataun Durden
 Daniel Dwyer
 Terry Earvin
 Catherine Eckstrom
 Clarissa Ehlers
 Ashley Elser
 Carla Emmett
 Willie England
 Jessica Falls
 Jessica Fenik
 Megan Fish
 Thomas Fitzpatrick
 Elijah Flakes
 Brandon Fles
 Shayna Florczyk
 Erika Flores
 Darryl Ford
 Andrea Farrier
 Tynesha Fouch
 Jerry Fauch IV
 Arturo Fuentes II
 Sara Furman
 Sean Gaffney
 Jessica Gardner
 William Garth
 Angelica Garza
 Crystal Garza
 Michael Gates
 Alexis Gedda
 James Gedda
 Patrick Geeze
 Christina Geminder
 Jacob George
 Austin Gibson
 Talysha Gibson
 Francisca Gantalez
 Kelli Goodman
 John Goosby III
 Jarred Gordon
 Madeline Gravert
 Valerie Grace
 Alexander Graves
 Darcia Gray
 Krystal Greene
 Whitney Griggs
 Amy Gurney
 Nicole Guzman
 Yvette Guzman
 Darren Hackett
 Brandon Hair
 Terri Halbe
 Terrell Hall
 Lauren Hallenbeck
 Darren Handley
 James Hanley
 Asiaree Harris
 Jamesha Harris
 Jerome Harris
 Meredith Harris

Tray Harris
Kalyan Harstad
Carlycia Hart
Brittany Headley
Lakia Heard
James Hedrick
Jasmine Henderson
Ian Hernandez
Jesus Herrero



Alex Hess
John Heston
Colleen Heylin
Eric Hill
Toquea Hill



Ashlee Holland
Neven Holland
Amy Hopkins
Dominique Howard
Simone Howard
Curtis Howard Jr.
William Hawe
Cassandra Hudson
Chris Huppenthal
Joseph Husek
Megan Hutchinson
Paul Hyde
Briana Ingram
Elijah Ivy
John Jackson
Marvis Jackson
Michael Jackson
Maunya Jacobs
Natascha Janakievski
Jeffrey Jelinek
Latanza Jenkins
Stephen Jewart
Dominique Johnson
James Johnson
Jeremy Martel Johnson
Jan Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Pamela Louise Johnson
Rachel Marie Johnson
John Johnson II
Brandon Jones
Cameron Jones
Jamal Jones
Jaquita Jones
Tierra Jordan



Jeffrey Kish
Sara Kathryn Kmetz
Matthew Kochevar
Christopher Koeppl
Justin Koon
Anastasios Kratimenas
Jacob Matthew Kuck
Jasmin Kuhner
Alexandra Kuras



Bradley Kurczynski
Mallory Ladd
Cady Lagermann
Mitchell Douglas Lamb
Rhonda Landrum

Michael Langhurst
Patrick Larden
Ronald Lawrsky Jr.
Edward Leonard
Matthew George Leus

Catherine Leventis
Brittany Lewis
Christina Labodinski
David Labodinski
Nina Marie Lapez

Ryan Lapez
Kacey Lauderdale
Austin Lucas
Scott Lucas
Rashawn Luckett

Cecilia Lum
Giovanni Macapagal
Colleen Renee Madoffen
Brian Maddax-Lee
Katrina Makaraunas

Nicholas Makarawski
Caitlin Malloy
Metadij Marinoski
Craig Marshall
Jamael Marshall

Kenneth Martin
Nicholas Bach Martinez
Robert Mason
Michael Matsey
Stephanie Matson

Christopher Matusik
Jeremy Maynard
Robert Tyler Mays
Kristin McClellan
Andre McGee

Larry McKinley
Tanzania McKinstry
Lachez McLucas
Chrystal McMillon
Frankie Mesa

"Cowboy hat to shade my eyes, a hammer and nails."

Kyle Morris



"Some boots, a knife and someone to talk to."

Desiree Walker



"Water, a knife and Jennifer Lapez."

Justin Koon



"Paper, pencil and my music."

Maricela Ayala



Showing support for their class, Madeline Gavert, Mary Dixon, Melissa Darang, and Kyle Bonick ride on the freshman float during the annual Football Homecoming Parade. It was one of eight of the floats that appeared in the parade.



Ari Manique Meux
 Andrew Philip Milenkavski
 Charlene Millard
 Beth Miller
 Jacqueline Suzanne Miller
 Malika Miller
 Blair Mitchell
 Deandre Mitchell
 Samantha Malden
 Laura Marena
 Kyle Louis Morris
 Brian Jefferey Marrow
 Larry Masley
 Kimberly Munchenburg
 Teresa Munchenburg
 William Murphy
 Jeffrey Nemcek
 James Newman
 Quoc Nguyen
 Ashley Nichols
 George Niksch
 Julian North
 Deandre Nwannunu
 Marissa O'Danley
 Derrick O'Reilly
 Fiyinfoluwa Obajuluwa
 Austin Orosz
 Andrea Orazzo
 Ryan Orzechowicz
 David Oullaw
 Tiffany Owen
 Danielle Pajan
 Ben Pankiewicz
 Alayna Panning
 Anthony Parini
 Devin Parker
 Russell Parkhurst
 Marcus Patikas
 Nijah Patton
 Sherman Paul
 Andrea Paulnitz
 Lauren Payne
 Nicholas Pecenica
 Ryan Peck
 Daniel Pelzel
 Nena Pena
 Erica Perez
 Lauren Person





Guy Pesnaux
 Alex Peters
 Eric Petersen
 Jeremy Steven Palak
 Kenneth Polezoes
 Lindsay Joann Pollard
 Alexander Ponce
 Vincent Porras
 Florida Porter
 Amanda Katherine Posey
 Amanda Powers
 Chyna Price
 Santanna Pruitt
 Brian Pucher
 Kimberly Quijana
 Jonathan Ramirez
 Rico Ramos
 Vanessa Marie Ramos
 Joshua Avanti Raspapovich
 Richard Timothy Reddick III
 Julie Reitz
 Donald Rettig
 Matthew Reynolds
 Melissa Richard
 Dalton Richards
 David Mark Richards II
 David Richmond III
 Beth Riede
 Aleksandar Risteviski
 Darnell Roberts
 Camilla Robinson
 Jeremy Robinson
 Genesis Rodriga
 Hector Roldan
 April Rosenbaum
 Daniel Rosenwinkel
 Delise Ross
 Kyle Ruckman
 Diane Ruk
 John Saffrahn
 Harold Sallee
 Julian Sameshima
 Janina Sanders
 Rachel Sanmiguel
 Orlanda Santos
 Danielle Saunders
 Jessica Schauer
 Daniel Scollan



With grins plastered on their faces, nominees Kelley Cooper, Melissa Darang, Christina Labodinski, and Blair Mitchell look at Brianne Woodward as she is announced as the Basketball Homecoming Princess. Unlike the previous years, a Freshman Princess was announced instead of having multiple members as the Princesses.

Lebrittney Scott
 Stephen Scott
 Devin Seaton
 Sabrina Elizabeth Shocorff
 Sandra Shuffard
 Jamie Marie Sieb
 Gurpreet Singh
 Carla Smith
 Christopher Smith
 Ira Smith
 Jake Smith
 Kenneth Robert Smith
 Kiara Smith
 Mita Smith
 Nicolas Smith
 Tyrka Smith
 Nicholas Sneiderwine
 Rannie Snelling
 Shaun Sokolowski
 Jessica Lindsey Sota
 Daan Southall
 Joshua Spence
 Daug Spencer
 Malisha Spencer
 Geaffrey Sperling
 Benjamin Spires
 Lauren Stacks
 Carri Stephenson
 Brittany Stewart
 Annette Stewart
 Candis Stoddard
 Staten Mackey Stofka
 Kevin Stojakovich
 Michael Wayne Stokes
 Margan Strauch
 Brad Stram
 Carrie Sullivan
 Ryan Sullivan
 Jaleesa Sumbry
 Rachael Anne Suris
 Megan Sweeney
 Nathan Sweller
 Barbara Swetlik
 Ryan Szala
 Huga Tafaya
 Jason Talbert
 Lee Talley
 Richard Talley
 Elisha Tanner
 Yessenia Tapia
 Gerald Taylor
 Rodney Taylor
 Leral Thomas
 Rodney Thomas Jr.
 Justin Thor
 Edwin Tirado Jr.
 Byran Turner II
 Brandon Usher
 Lauren Marie Vafiadis
 Jessica Lynn Valant
 Rebecca Analiza Vanvleet
 Amy Vargas
 Bianca Vasquez
 Vanavia Ventura
 Samuel Vesely
 Kara Marie Viskosky
 Lai Va
 Elaine Vorgias
 Desiree Walker
 Tatiana Walker
 Jarell Wall
 Ashley Wallace





Gabrielle Walton
 Andrea Warman
 Lamar Washington
 Justin Watkins
 Brandon Watson
 Ryan Thomas Wengel
 Marsha Ruth West
 William West Jr.
 Nathan Westphal
 Isaac White
 Joshua White
 Michael Ray White
 Nicholas Whitehead
 Marcus Whitt
 Heather Renae Whittemore
 Alyssa Wiley
 Dianne Wilkerson
 Thaddeus Wilkerson
 Eric Williams
 Jesse Williams
 Mareo Williams
 Shannon Denise Williams
 Travis Williams
 Victor Williams II
 Linwood Williamson
 Jeffery Wilson
 Xavier Wilson
 Joseph Wing
 Matthew Winn
 Garrett Winton
 Ashley Woods
 Clara Woods
 Brianne Woodward
 Tiffany Woodworth
 Kyle Yarnell
 Lashavinda Yates
 Bret Christopher Yelachich
 Joshua Yaoum
 Gerald Young
 Nyla Young

Rigoberto Zambrano Jr.
 Nicholas Zelisko
 Christopher Zupanoki

Camera Shy Freshmen

Cortez Arnold
 Hope Asya-Broughton
 Andrea Barkley
 Alan Bebley
 Ivan Brignoni
 Arie Brown
 Tamisha Brown
 Hillary Cooke
 Tysha Crockett
 DaVon Cundiff
 LeAntoinette Cundiff
 Arshia Denson
 Jordan Gaeta
 KulYanna Gaines
 Marcus Hall

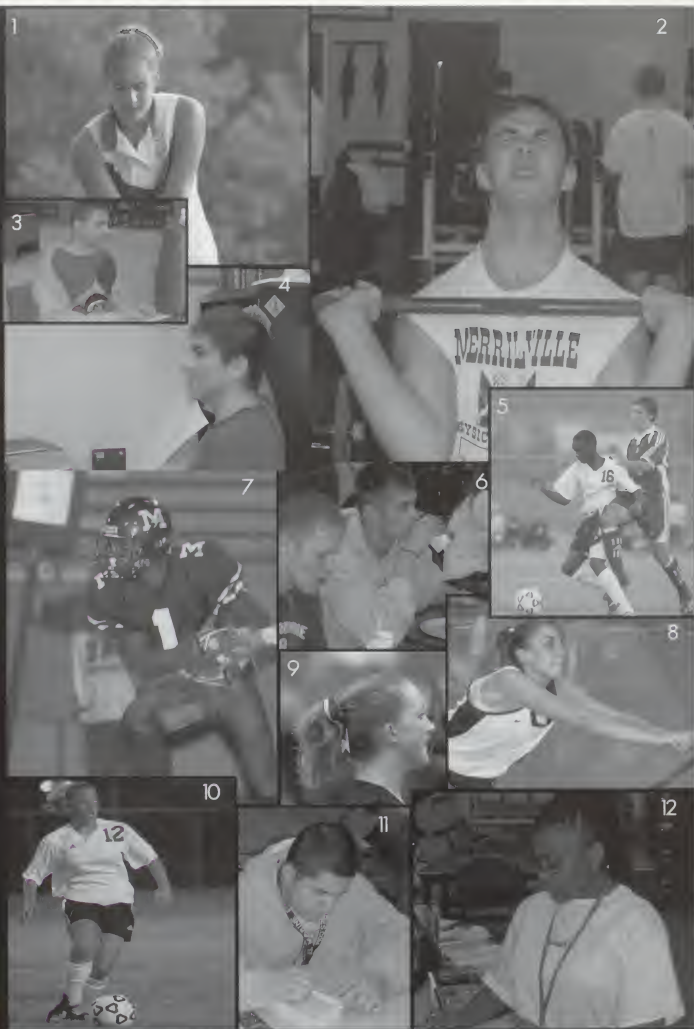
La'Visha Halmes
 Malgra Hunter
 David Ivy
 Danyelle Johnson
 Dwayne Johnson
 Armando Lagunas
 Maha Latif
 Ariel Mabone
 Miguel Magallanes
 Krystin McClellan
 Larry Masley
 Jose Nieto
 Latoya Noble
 Derrica Parks
 Maurice Porter

Christopher Pyatt
 Jovonika Ravel
 Ryan Relpharde
 Dustin Sipes
 Seth Smith-Robinson
 David Smith
 Nicklaus Smith
 Daniel Sparks
 Tammy Taylor
 Lauren Townsend
 John Underwood
 Derrianne Upshaw
 Carl Welch
 Ross Whiteside
 Brittany Whittemore
 Johnathan Yates



Rushing to meet the deadline for a Required Reading test, Freshman Ben Spires scans the bookshelves for an enticing book to read. New rules require students to read one book per quarter and pass a test with a score of at least 70 percent. Fifty-four percent of all freshmen received A's on their report cards. The Freshman Class had the highest score after the seniors.

Class of '06



1. Janel Barsch 2. Billy Crasby 3. James Crawley 4. Edwin Marena 5. Akin Akinrinade 6. Vance Gidley and Kyle Wengel 7. Jeremy Billingsley 8. Erica Aloia 9. Lindsey Alvarez 10. Emily Czekala 11. Aaron Rodriguez 12. Samantha Lowe



Britton, Abram
 Stacy Adams
 James Addison
 Jennifer Addison
 Natalie Adler
 James Aeschliman
 Robert Agne
 Alvin Alumnade
 Yvette Alba
 Brian Albee
 Celeste Alcantar
 Robert Alchah
 Damien Alexis
 Taana Ali
 Raquel Allen
 Robin Allen
 Erica Alon
 Lindsey Alvarez
 Gloria Alvelo
 Luke Amundsen
 Darran Anderson
 James Anderson
 Brittney Andrade
 Eric Antikawak
 Alfredo Arredondo
 Saprina Ashburn
 Diane Ashford
 Rosina Assibay-Mersich
 Rosalinda Ayala
 Derrell Bailey
 Jasmine Bailey
 Jeremy Bailey
 Leslie Bailey
 Daniel Baker
 Lakesha Barbee
 Kelly Barefield
 Cassidy Barner
 Kimberly Barnes
 Jonel Barsch
 Darrell Bass
 Kyle Bateman
 Angela Baumann
 Justin Bello
 Alayna Bella
 Jacqueline Bella
 Marcus Berry
 Jeffrey Bess
 Shakira Best
 Eric Bilick
 Jeremy Billingsley
 Ray Bishop
 Lorna Blondet
 Jesse Blue
 Michael Bork
 Harry Baskamp III
 Dustyn Boyd
 Matthew Braatz
 Porsche Bradley
 Drake Brando
 Armando Bravo
 Richard Breitenstein
 Kristin Brindley
 Amanda Broerhes
 Emily Brooks
 William Brosch
 Alexandro Brown
 Dwayne Brown
 Samuel Brown
 Tashoun Brown
 Tinea Brown
 Janessa Buhse
 Jena Bull

Ricky Burge
 Austin Burke
 Justin Burke
 Denise Burney
 Chasity Burns
 Bobby Burton
 Jennifer Busse
 Ryan Cameron
 Michelle Cannon
 Edna Carbajal
 Braylin Carpenter
 Analay Carrera
 Asa Carter
 Andre Cash
 Nathan Chandler
 Cheng-Wei Chang
 Andrea Clanton
 Dominique Clark
 Deleron Coleman
 Denise Coleman
 Philip Cummings
 Christi Cundas
 Alison Conquest
 Cali Contreras
 Tiffany Cooper
 William Cora Jr.
 Takema Cox
 James Crawley
 William Crosby
 Melissa Crossley
 Jennifer Cruz
 Dominique Cudde
 Mollory Cuevas
 Anthony Curry
 Emily Czekala
 Kayla Dally
 Chad Dawson
 Hannah Day
 Keith Dean Jr.
 Tierney Dearon
 Lindsey Degard
 Clyndayre Delgado
 Abigail Desdigha
 Brendan Delaney
 Jeffrey Delya
 Erica Denson
 Gregory Denvit
 Erica DeSota
 Lee Dixon III
 Noelle Dalton
 Joseph Duggins
 Maresa Duncan
 Katrina Durant
 Raymond Duttweiler
 Angela East
 Ambra Easterling
 April Echols
 Martell Edwards
 Kevin Eisler
 Erica Elmore
 Daniel Enghofer
 Whitney English
 Yeniffer Espeja
 Darryl Evans Jr.
 Adam Farag
 Magen Fassoth
 Cara Feies
 Lara Ferrell
 Tina Fitzpatrick
 Allana Fieck
 Amber Fleming
 Travonda Fleming
 Reginald Fleming





Edward Flores
Holly Floyd
Justin Floyd
Laura Flynn
Jessica Francis
Eric Freeman
Shannon Frey
Gilberto Fuentes
Alyssa Fritz
Tammy Gaboyan
Tamara Gaddy
Jessica Gallinatti
Armando Garza
Tiffany Garza
Ann Marie Gault
Rafael Geradmas
Timothy Ghasan
Adonis Gibson
Kelsey Gibson
William Gidley
Romario Gilbert
Antwone Gildan
Krystle Gill
Morgan Gill
Christopher Ginter
Kierra Givens
Carly Gokwitzer
Melody Gomez
Robert Gomez
Jadlyn Goralczyk
Odell Gordon
Tiffany Gordon
Lawrence Gransberry
Angelique Gruchmal
Raquel Guerrero
Justin Gust
Juan Gutierrez
Kiera Hagan
Ashley Hahney
Elaine Hall



Mike Trajkovski

"Jennifer Lopez, because she is the cutest singer."



Justin Burke

"Jennifer Garner, because I met her and she was a nice girl."

*If you could go
on a date
with any celebrity,
who would it be
and why?*



Tammy Gaboyan

"Paul Walker, because he's definitely hot."



Vicki Rousis

"Orlando Bloom, because he is so hot."

Brittney Hampton

Nicole Hansbury

Dwight Harding

Kasee Harris

Cheryl Harrison

Mallory Harting

Richard Hartline

Richard Hauber

Mary Hawkins

Breana Hendrix

Sonyia Henry

Benjamin Hernandez

Gregory Heron

Perry Herzog

Jeremy Higgins

Kristina Highlan

Brittney Hill

Gregory Hill

Aaron Hindson

Nicholas Hingak

Daniel Holley

Cambrina Hollingsworth

Ebony Holly

Gina Howard

Melissa Hubbell

Melvin Hudson

Lauren Hush

Emiley Hunt

Jasmine Jackson

LaStar Jackson

Lauren Jackson

Andrew Mark James

Thomas John

Elliott Johnson

Brittany Jones

Condace Marie Jones

Edward Jones

Jessica Jones

Khamecia Jones

La Reshea Jones

Tahana Jones

Brandon Jordan

Andrew Kaiser

Samanthah Kaiser

Zachery Karraolt

Rania Kaoukis

Katherine Kaplan

Irene Karagondis

Sean Kavvas

Tiffany Kedziora

Phillip Keene

Ryan Kemp

Courtney King

Sharletta King

Ashley Kistinger

Dejan Kitevski

Brandy Klein

Vels Knight

Heather Kovach

Niki Kraska

Christina Krammenos

Jonathan Kuck

Brittney Diana Labara

Evelynn Lape

Paulo Lara

Dexter Larmore

Elizabeth Lashenk

Randall Laster

Enzar Lee

Megan Lee

Tamika Lee





Anthony Leard
 Shanna Leslie
 Justin Lewis
 Courtney Liddell
 Antoine Lindsey
 Joseph Lobodinski
 Cornell Lockett
 David Lopez
 Krystle Louis
 Samantha Lowe
 Cvetla Lazevski
 Callie Lucas
 Anthony Lucente
 Robert Lucente
 Todd Lunsford
 Garkarlo Macapagal
 Ayadaj Estaj Macarthy
 Christopher Will Madrid
 Natalie Jay Madrid
 Rebecca Magana
 Erica McGee
 Kyran Magee
 Melanie Mangrum
 Natasha Ann Manzella
 Shaun Marino
 Jennice Marquez
 Jericho Marrero
 Krystal Marshall
 Tyana Marshall
 Robert Martin
 Mykal Martinez
 Angelina Mast
 Timothy Matson
 Nichole Mauk
 Emerson May II
 Verrando Mayweathers
 Jade McCaslin
 Beaudilla McClelland
 Colin McDondald
 Victoria McGee
 Kelly McGhee
 Lindsey McIlroy
 Simone McKinney
 Jacob McKawn
 Courtney McLeod
 Jr. Michael McMillan
 Krystle McMullan
 Sharon Mercado
 Brittany Merritt
 Joshua Metz
 Evan Meux
 Derek Mickliff
 Jett Mihal
 Devin Miles
 Jessica Milla
 Courtney Miller
 Jermel Miller
 Sidney Miller
 Heather Mills
 Daniel Minsky
 Samuel Minsky
 Joseph Loren Mireles
 Sheena Mitchell
 Victor Mabley
 Maria Montemayor II
 D'Andre Moody
 Alston Moore
 Brittney Moore
 Robert Moore
 Edwin Moreno
 Jervon Mosley
 Julian Terence Mosley

What's your favorite store



Zachary Sperling

"Suncoast, because it has a large variety of 'Anime.'"



Alison Conquest

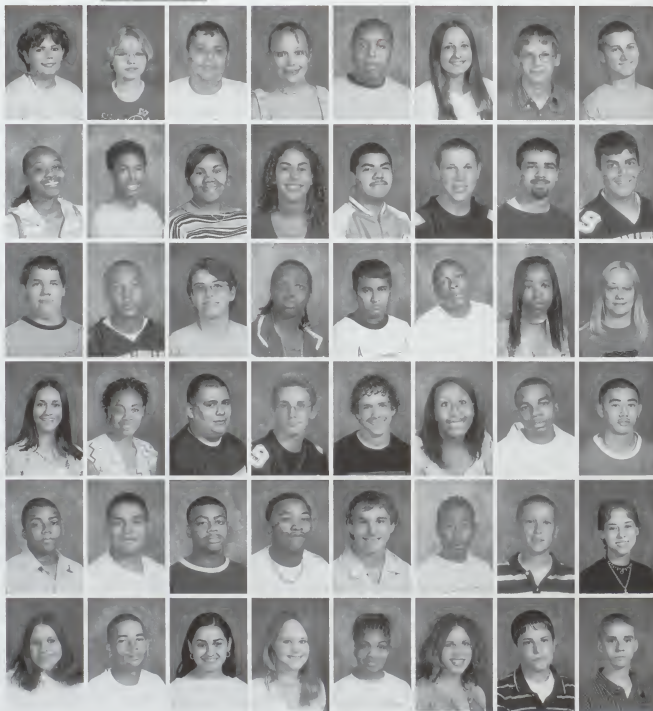
"American Eagle, because it fits everyone's different styles."



Scott Stephen

"Mr. Rags, because of the wide variety of skate videos."

Beverly Munchenburg
Cheryl Munchenburg
Steven Muxowski
Katherine Naglosky
Ria Harvey Nance
Leigh Nelson
Daniel Nieman II
Dustin Nikolich
Tavia Norman
Chad Noss
Angelica Nunn
Aimee Ortega
Gerardo Ortiz Jr.
Michael Padgett
Jamie Palomo
Estrofas Papamhalakis
Vincent Pariso
Evan Parker
Jessica Parker
Terrell Parrish
Tushar Patel
Henry Patterson
Paige Patterson
Tiffany Patterson
Stephanie Pavlish
Tierra Peacock
Jeremy Pedraza
Richard Pennington
Jared Perkins
Brittany Alexandrina Perry
Karl Person
Roger Pesnaux
Lucas Phillips
Jose Ponce
Sean Powell
Jeremy Powers III
Ryan Anthony Pazezanac
Maria Pruitt
Joshua Puzey
Katherine Quack
Renee Rogan
Cedric Van Rambert Jr.
Diana Ramirez
Samantha Ratley
Jacquelyn Reed
Lauren Michelle Rees
Brian Reese
Michael Renn



in the mall and why?

"Finish Line, because I love their gym shoes."

Greg Hill



Callie Lucas

"Express, because that is where I get all of my clothes from."

"American Eagle, because I like all the cool clothes and all the different colors."

Renee Schmellmeyer



Rayhan Richardson
Erica Richmond
Melissa Rivera
Sarah Rivera
Manuel Riveron Jr.
Danelle Roberts
Jarryn Robinson
Earl Robinson Jr.
Jaja Rodgers
Aaron Rodriguez
Emily Rodriguez
Arthur Rosales
Manuel Rosales
Sean Rose
Vasili Rous
James W. Rowe III
Bryan Ruder
Rachael Rudolph
Victoria Ruiz
Steven Ruschak
Elizabeth Ryan
Joanna Salinas
Saja Sameshima
Adrian Sanchez
George Sanchez
Kenneth Sangster
Jessica Savin
Scott Schaler
Renee Schmellmeyer
Tara Schreiber
Jonathan Scott
Michael Scott
Ladonna Selmon
Keith Semmes
Imelda Serrano
Rebecca Serrano
Justin Shirley
Nicole Silbersdorf
James Simonson
Amber Simpson
Jaspreet Singh
Blair Smith
Drukunyea Smith
Jaqueline Smith
Jason Snedderwine
Blake Sobacki
Ryan Sorenson
Timothy Savich

What was the grossest thing you ever ate?

"Dog food."

Brittany Merritt



"Tripe (sheep guts)"

Lucas Phillips



"A piece of dead raccoon after Doug Kurczynski killed it."

Matt Braatz



Daniel Sparks
Zachary Spierling
Scott Stephen
Christine Stephens
Felicia Stewart



John Stoddard
Haley Stora
Mercedes Strickland
Andrew Strunk
Beola Sulaman



Wladan Suleski
Trennell Sumbry
Dana Sylva
Christopher Szala
Robert Tate III



Tanequa Taylor
Tiffany Taylor
John Teamer
Ashley Thomas
Melissa Thurson



Brian Timmons
Inene Tinoco
Raymond Tinoco
Marisol Tirado
Pedra Torres



Donald Tath
Jeffrey Tath
Ashley Trana
Michael Trajkovski
Lindsey Trook



Caroline Tucker
Emmanuel Turner
Jessica Turner
Kayla Turner
Lee Twitly III



Brandon Uquidi
Angela Uvalle
Dale Eriward VanVleet
Sarah Vaughn
Eric Vazquez



Xiomara Vega
Emily Vela
Nicole Vowell
Gligor Vranaskoski
Shannon Wachtolz





Alyssa Wachter
 Gary Wallace III
 Lauren Walls
 James Walton
 Susan Ware
 Christopher Warrens
 Ashley Washburn
 Rochelle Waxton
 Kyle Wengel
 Kamae Westbrooks
 Angela White
 Crystal White
 Donald Whitemore
 Gary Willey
 Albert Williams
 Calvin Williams
 Joseph Williams
 Paulette Williams
 Holly Williamson
 Suzanne Wills
 Kevin Wilson
 Stacy Wilson
 Leon Winters
 Sarah Wolf
 Tabitha Wood
 Jonathan Woodward
 Shemeka Wright
 Samuel Yacka
 Branna Yarnell
 Donald York
 Susanne Youngren
 Matthew Zdych

Kevin Zelska
 Morgan Zellers
 Jacob Zerbe
 George Zupanowski
 Heather Zurek

Camera Shy Sophomores

Torrence Anderson
 Tyisha Briscoe
 Lamar Buckson
 Mary Carter
 Charles Cole
 Nathan Cole
 Chad Cooper
 Delisa Dumas
 Ashley Evenson
 Dimitri Ferguson
 Athena Frost
 Sacelia Ghazi
 Montrae Hatcher
 Ray Holmes
 Ty Andrea Hunter
 Desmond James
 Martez Macon
 Jazmine Arlene McGee
 Samantha Messina
 Eric Miles
 Tanesha L. Neal
 Demetrius Noble
 Daminga Perry
 Markelia Peterson
 Rachel Samis
 Christopher Sanders
 LaRonya Sanders
 Matthew Struven
 Samuel Sumrall
 Myron Tinsley
 Daniel Torres
 Magdalena Valdez
 Kirsten E. Vesely
 Brittany Wesley
 JaMawn Wheeler
 Lashameice Williams
 Daphne Wills
 Charity Woodard
 Andrew William Wright



Showing their school spirit, the Class of 2006 cheerleaders roof for the girls' Basketball Team against Benton Central. Erica Aloia, Cambria Hollingsworth, Callie Lucas and Kamae Westbrooks stay in sync while doing their sideline chants.

Class of '05



1. Kevin Marsh and Sahson Karimi 2. Brian Kiszka, Robert Gonzalez and Andrew Pitt 3. Amber Jimenez 4. Shawn Hahney 5. Jaclyn Gabrysiak and Alexandra Garritano 6. Jenni Festa 7. Megan Frasca 8. Dyan Darang 9. Mandy Medellin 10. Michael Binder and James Reitz 11. Dustin Tarr and Danol Marler 12. Timothy Jelinek 13. Tricia Lakatas, Erin Knight, Julianne Fabian and Thomas Sivka 14. Kimberly Jansen, Alisha Lucas and Nicole Olivares



Sayid Abdul Hafiz
 Mark Abel
 Mehmet Acunal
 Gina Gesta Adams
 Jeremy Adamson
 Amber Akhlag
 Taesia Alford
 Gillian Alvear
 Javier Alvea
 Ashley Amelise
 Joseph Amparan
 Darren Anderson
 Dashawn Anderson
 Michael Andrews
 Gina Angatti
 Shana Anthony
 Jesus Arce
 Jessica Argue
 Jamie Armstrong
 Farah Arshami
 Priyanka Arshanapalli
 Daryl Arthur
 Michael Ashe
 Daniel Avery
 Islam Baghdady
 Donald Bailey
 Maisha Baker
 Daniele Baldassari
 Patricia Bane
 Marissa Bankston
 Brandon Barnes
 Vincent Bertoch
 Matthew Bigelow
 Adam Billich
 Andrew Binder
 Michael Binder
 Lareal Blackwell
 Victoria Blanco
 Benjamin Blandell
 Frederick Blue
 Kevin Boksa
 Dana Bolden
 Michael David Booker
 Stephanie Boone
 Chanel Borman
 Melissa Borman
 LaDonna Bostic
 De Marcos Brazier
 Erica Brack
 Alyssia Brawn
 Anesia Brawn
 Leslie Brown
 Amanda Brunn
 Nolan Buck
 Michelle Buckner
 Justin Burgess
 Daniel Burkus
 Andrew Burt
 Margan Lynn Bynum
 Jonathan Cabral
 Tiffany Cain
 Brittany Caldwell
 Davin Campbell
 Janie Campbell
 Michael Cannon
 Sabrina Carlisle
 Christopher Carter
 Andrew Caruana
 Amanda Cast
 Enrique Cerras
 William Chandler
 Gary Clenna

What are you looking forward to the most about senior year?

"I can't wait until Graduation."

Sneza Nacovski



"Getting out of high school and starting my career."

Miriam Rivera



"Well, I just hope it's a happy year."

Doug Kurczynski



"Graduation and all the senior stuff."

Kiera Shelton



Julianne Coates
McKinley Cofield
Tiffanie Colby
Katherine Coleman
Michael Coleman Jr.



Cody Colgate
Adriana Colon
LaTavia Comer
Brenda Corner
Melissa Corman



Christopher Coto
Justin Coto
Matthew Crane
Rickie Crawley
Lavonte' Crook



Angela Crosby
David Cuadra
Jessica Daniels
Dyan Darang
Jaymini Dave



Tristan Dawson
Xavieria Day
Amanda Degard
Anthony Dennis
Kathryn Diehl



Ksenija Djukic
Robert Dambrowski
Ryan Donahue
Krista Dora
Jens Douglas



Allison Jean Dyer
Chevan Earl
Christian Ellis
NaQuita Elmore
Erin Ely



Elena Estes
Chad Evenson
Julianne Fabian
Rayshad Faison
Maeginn Farmer



Brandon Fazekas
Jenni Festa
Michael Finchum
Brandon Fisher
Brandy Fitzgerald





Erica Fizer
LeAnn Flanagh
Andrew Ford
Jovante Ford
Kyle Foree

Megan Frasca
Ryan Fravel
Shaun Freeman
Lauren Frost
Jaclyn Gabrysiak

Samantha Gaffney
Steven Gaines
Pamela Gallardo
De'Unique Grant
Michael Garcia

Alexandra Garritano
Alexander Gates
Elaina Gemelas
Candice Gnlika
Robert Gonzalez

Amber Goodman
Johnyce Goosby
Raland Graham
Felicia Graves
Delorean Gray

Kymalee Gresh
Megan Grezovski
Brandon Grzybowski
Sara Grzybowski
Eric Guajardo

Molly Guernsey
Jacquelyn Gurney
Amalia Guzman
Julian Guzman
Shawn Matthew Hahney

Melissa Hqjvert
Elizabeth Hall
Brittany Hamlin
Christine Marie Hanson
Candace Harbin

Beverly Haro
Cristopher Mcha Haro
Fabian Haro
Jacqueline Hartford
Shenell Haynes

Where do you see
yourself in 10 years?

"I see myself living in Florida."

Kendall Maddox



"I see myself at Stanford
Medical School in California."

Lagina Williams



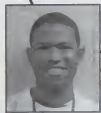
"I will have a fat crib with ten
wives."

Bart Woodward



"I will have a CEO position
making lots of money."

Justin Williams



What's something about you that

"I hate to watch T.V."

Michael Neal



"I am surprisingly very humorous."

Stephanie Boone



"I actually love to listen to classical music."

David Plasencia



Matthew Hays
Kimberly Heath
Laura Heidler
Jason Henderson
Clayton Henry
Eder Hernandez
John Hicks
Jennifer Highsmith
Ashley Hinchen
Gregory Hite
Jonathan Hmuravich
Franketta Hagan
Kisha Hartan
Eddie Houston
Larry Howard
Dennis Howell
David Ki Hudson
Brittany Huh
Jeremy Hunter
Wala Issa

Alexander Robert James
Tenita Jamison
Ashly Janovick
Kimberly Jansen
Timothy Jelinek
Natasha Jennings
Caderea Jester
Amber Nicole Jimenez
Anthony Johnson
Jessica Johnson
Mylah Johnson
Adrian Jones
Ashley Jones
Charles Jones
Gerard Jones
Khember Jones
Tiffany Jones
Kevin Jordan
Michelle Jordan
David Miles Jutkus
Michael Kanouse
Sahsan Karim
Matthew Kasperan
Emmanuel Kazanis
Rabbiann Keaton
John Kedziora Jr.
Christopher Kelly
Teneka Kindred



people might be surprised to know?

"I like to do crazy things like skydiving in the middle of the ocean."

Rayshad Faison



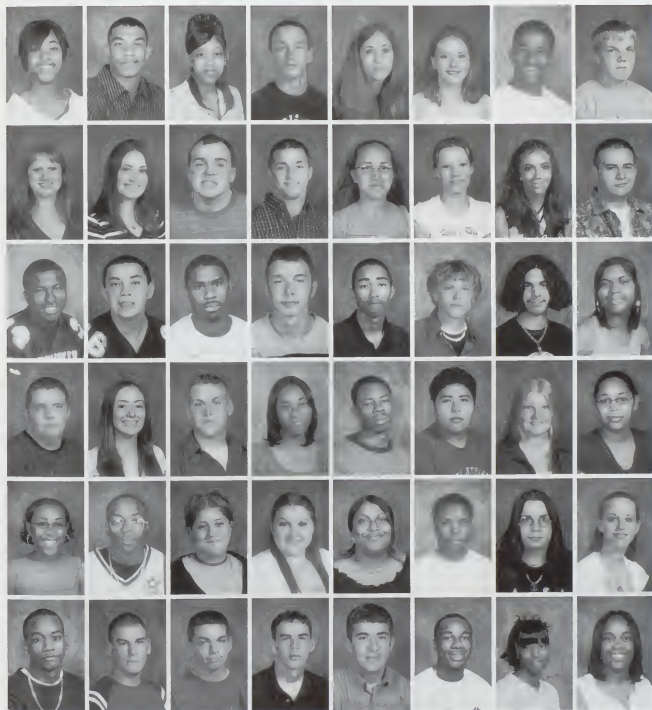
"I'm a weightlifter."

Megan Stacks



"I like to rock climb."

Matthew Hays



Natalie King
 Sean Kinsey
 Taneisha Kirk
 Brian Kiszko
 Kassandra Ann Kluga
 Erin Knight
 Daron Lomant Knox
 Adam Koartge
 Rebecca Kahler
 Katie Komisaruk
 Eli Koolich
 Douglas Kurczynski
 Sarra Kwell
 Alexandra Laine La Pinto
 Tricia Lokatos
 Garrett Longham
 Steven Lores
 Dale Austin Lee
 Jeremy Bryan Lee
 Thomas Leicht
 Vincent Ligon
 Justin Little
 Anthony Llano
 TaNesha Logan
 Garrett Wade Lahr
 Sara Lopez
 Brandon Laundermik
 Evette Lowe
 LaTray Lowe
 Eric Lazado
 Alsha Lucas
 Michelle Lutinen
 Myiesha Mable
 Kelvin Mock
 Brenna Modafferi
 Kendall Rose Maddax
 Benito Madry
 Brandon Mahone
 Billy Joe Manning
 Melanie Maple
 Aaron Marcus
 Neil Marek
 Daniel Marler
 Kevin Marsh
 Scott Michael Mathewson
 Joshua Maya
 Ashley McCay
 Ineke McMillan

Who should pay on a date and why?

"The guy, because that's how it works."

Kris Simonovski



"Both should split the bill."

Megan Frasca



"The guy. That's how it is supposed to be."

Michelle Paskash



"The girl, because I am broke."

Brian Kiszka



Mandy Medelin
Christopher Mercado
John Steven Metz
Nicole Meyer
Jeremy Mican



Jason Mitchell
Biljana Mizimakaski
Dwayne Mamon
Ann Marie Manteen
Julie Mantemayor



Adalya Moore
Jessica Moore
Michael Moriarty
Adam Morris
Affien Mrasz



Candice Murphy
Courtney Myricks
Sneza Nacovski
Alexander Nadolski
Robert Nance



Michael Nason
Sergio Nava-McCain
Michael Neal
Kristen Neese
Gary Nelson



Stephanie Neville
James Nicola
Danielle Nikrin
Gregory Nilsch
Elizabeth Nomanson



Lindsey Nasich
Jason Nyangani
Amy O'Neill
James O'Reilly
Aran Olkich

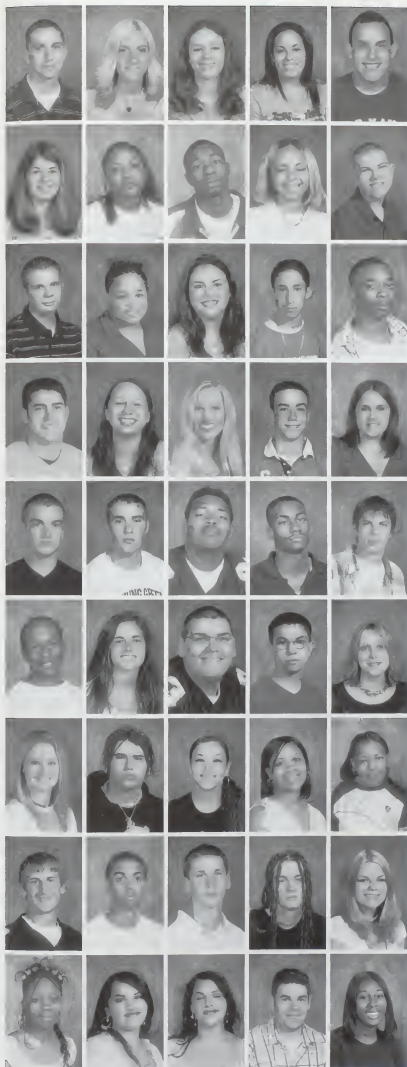


Nicole Olivares
Kevin Olson
Obinna Onyeka
Eric Oria
Christopher Ortiz



Jeffrey Ortiz
Ronald Parish
Curtis Parker
Jamie Parker
Lyndenna Patton





Matthew Edward Paul
Kristi Ann Powlowski
Bonnie Paya
Nerissa Pedroza
Ronald Anthony Pedroza

Anita Pejaski
Trilla-LeAnn Pesnaux
Theras Pettis
Cheekera Pfeifer
Tommy Pfister

Alexander Phyl
Jacqueline Piccoli
Kristina Pimentel
Andre Phreda
Michael Pittman

David Plasencia
Melodie Plummer
Kristy Poister
Bryan John Popa
Jennifer Ashley Porter

Aaron Michael Potter
Nathanael Powell
Sheridan Darnell Powell
Trimm Price
Andrew Pritt

Brandon Pruitt
Katelyn Pruitt
Joseph Purevich
Matthew Quintanilla
Holly Radford

Andrea Rainaldi
Jimmy Ramirez
Maria Ramirez
Salimah Rasheed
Karen Rayban

James Reitz
Brett Relphorde
Jonathan Reynolds
Deven Rhymr
Amy Richard

Marnetta Richardson
Miranda Rivera
Miriam Rivera
Jeremy Roark
Anitra Robinson

Who is your role model and why?

"Rocky Cogonna. He's one of the top Paintball players in the world."

Benjamin Blondeel



"Vin Diesel. He's so awesome."

Tony Johnson



"My dad. He does what he can to support me."

Steven Stackert



"Kristi Pawlowski, because she saved Tricia Lakatos' life, and she always follows her dreams."

Kristen Neese



Ashley Robinson
Eric Robinson
Evelyn Robinson
Ramel Robinson
Carolyn Rodriguez
Evangelina Raja
Erika Rouse
Brandon Rush
Jennifer Russell
Jocelyn Russell
James Ryan

Adam Matthew Sak
Brittany Sanders
Deonte Sanders
Tremain Sanders
Scott Santelik

Virgil Savage II
Brendan Schafer
Meghan Schafer
Lindsey Sharp
Christopher Sheehan
Kiera Sheltan

Nicole Elizabeth Shudick
Casey Lynn Sieb

Jashua Silva
Kristopher Simanovski

Stephanie Simpson
Brett Skarupa

Amanda Slaughter
Laura Slavik

Thomas Slivka
Centresha Smith

Jason Smith
Johnny Smith

Marques Smith
Steven Smith

Kimberly Ann Snelderswine
Joseph Andrew Sobek

Tammy Solich
Matthew Sapko

Zachary Sowash
Katherine Nicole Spalukas

Dane Spann
Erik Spila

Steven Stackert
Megan Stacks

Joshua Stanek
Jeffrey Stelzer

Courtney Stephens
Nicole Steriavski

Christopher Sternberg
Sable Strickland

Marijana Suleska
John Summers

Dustin Tarr
Paul Terrebonne

John Enos Thomas
Kendall Thomas

Rachael Thomas
Stephanie Thomas

Carl Thompson II
Jenna Tharnley

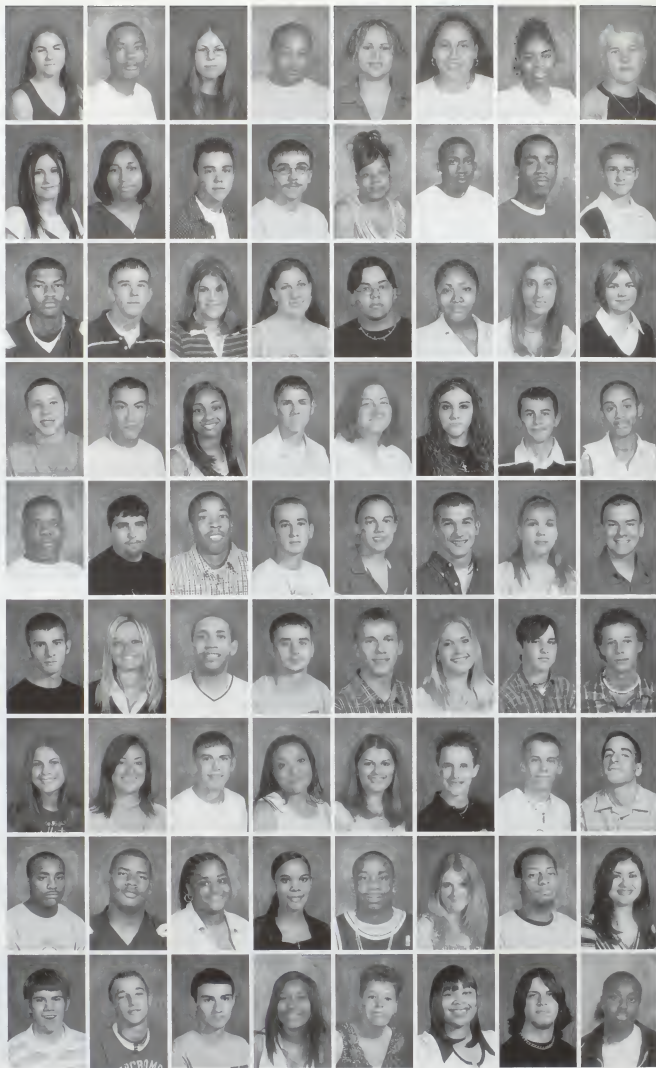
Claudia Trado
Mark Takarski

Milorad Trkulja
Rita Trpkaski

Chaquilla Tucker
Sarah Turner

Taura Turner
David Underhill

Brittany Urserly





Kimberly Uzelac
Kimberly Vanek
Thomas Vault
Stacey Veldman
Antonette Vinson
Antonio Vinson
Trevor Vogwill
Cary Steven Wagner
Stephanie Waldran
Ashley Walker
Courtney Walker
Keir Walker
Jala Warner
Kristine Warshall
Rachel Weatherington
Paul Weed
Gemma Weems
Jessica Werth
Kenyetta West
Michelle Westbury
Adriana White
Brandi White
Kimberly White
Trisha Whitemare
Matthew Wieneke
Mark Wieneke II
Jason Wildes
Shakiya Wiley
Alberta Wikersan
John Williams
Lagina Williams
Natassia Williams

Shana Williams
Trenika Williams
Ryan Wills
Braxton Wilson
Devin Wilson
Kendra Wilson
Genevieve Marie Wirtz

Bart Woodward
Candice Wright
John Wright
Samantha Wright
Curtis Wyatt
Melissa Young
Alyssa Ziller

Camera Shy Juniors

Holly Anderson
LaNita Arnold
Stephanie Bishop
Den Bryant
Timothy Bugno
Toreyi Burns
Michael Cartwright
Jovan Champion
Myles M. Clark
Shawn Clark
Marissa Camanese
Heather Cooper
Kristina Craig
Antaine Cundiff

David Cundiff
Barbara Dervit
Julius Drake
Keonte Facen
Ramane Frost
Erin Garcia
Christopher Garza
Pierre Greer
Justin J. Grzybowski
Joseph Hall
Vanessa Hernandez
Justin Higgins
Jasmine Hopkins
Latisha Hopkins

Robert Hopkins
Phyllissa Howard
Brandon Jackson
Ashley Johnson
DeAundra Johnson
Antoinette Jones
Charles Jordan
Bianca Joseph
John Kasper
Jonathan Kelley
Arnetta Lawrence
Andre Lewis
Duwaun Looney

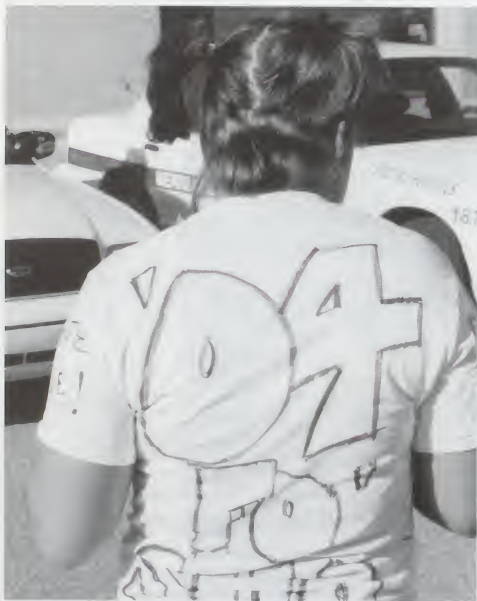
Zack Mails
Jamie Marsh
Gabrielle A. Mays
Jeffery Messinio
Monica Mitro
Veronica Page
Brandon Parks
Rebecca Parrish
Michelle L. Paskash
Pete Pena
Bryant Person
Robert Polk
Steven Ralston
Joel Remaley

Dell Ray Riley
Donald Robertson
Nathan Robinson
Kimberly Sandifer
Maria Serrata
Kimberly Simmons
David W. Smith
Christopher Sturdivant
Alexander Thien
Kevin Thomason
Edward T. Torres
Anthony Travline
Caressa M. Upchurch
Gerarda Valdez

Christian Vega
Elena Waitkevich
Shannon D. White
Jerrad Wilcher
Justin Wilderness
Wilbert Wilkerson
Aaron Williams
Justin H. Williams
Amanda Wojtysiak
Bernard Worsham
Antanias Yiatras
Shaun Wood

Out the Door In. . .

THE YEAR'S
EVENTS
GAVE US
STORIES
TO TALK
ABOUT FOR
THE REST
OF OUR
LIVES.



Senior year. Finally. The days of homeroom, I.D.s, P.N.N. dress codes, high school sports games, crowded hallways, dances, lockers and the colors of purple and white will soon be only memories for us, the Senior Class.

Many of us have been waiting for our senior year since the beginning of our educational careers. We began our formal education almost 13 years ago as timid, curious and eager kindergartners, but at the end of this year we will leave as mature, educated young adults. We will head off to colleges, the military trade schools and jobs, keeping the things that we have learned and experienced at Merrillville in our hearts and minds.

As a class, we have seen many changes take place within the walls of our school and outside in our society. During our years at MHS, we had to adapt to new principals and teachers and school rules concerning the mandatory I.D. policy, dress codes and the 'pink issue.' As a school, community and nation, we experienced the aftermath of 9/11 and the War in Iraq. We were here when Eugene Wilson, a former football star at MHS made a special return home after winning the Super Bowl with the New England Patriots. The highlight of our final year may have been the big surprise of the MTV 'Prom Date' show taking over our prom with a top secret performer.

The future holds our independence, further education and a whole new lifestyle. We must learn to adjust. As one door closes behind us, new ones open. The future calls.

Jacqeline Barsich and Rico Merced

Proudly displaying her homemade T-shirt showing her class spirit, Senior Class President Ashley Dallas watches as her fellow seniors prepare their float for the Homecoming Parade. Dallas said, 'I like showing my school spirit because I like being involved as much as I can at school. High school's boring if you don't get involved.'



Sprinting past his opponents, Senior Brandon Masley rushes the ball towards the end zone. Masley, a fullback, will play football on a scholarship at Indiana University.



Participating in a mock drunk driving trial, Seniors Joseph Szczarba, Nicole Stampor, Jon Warus and Michelle Rodriguez listen as the case verdict of "innocent" is announced. As members of the AP Government class, they were assigned a role to play in the Hammond Courthouse and had to prepare an argument for the case.



In the Guidance Office, Seniors Raven Ivey and Bernard Beard scan through SAT practice books. Students use the Guidance Office as a tool to prepare for life after graduation.



During Homecoming Week, Senior Michelle Matheny shows her school spirit in the annual parade. The week was full of activities to get students excited about the football game against the LaPorte Slicers.



"I just like to have fun in school. I don't care what others think of me," Senior Brad Daniel said. As he licks his fingers clean, Daniel finishes off a cake in his fourth hour Yearbook class.

04



Going over plays with his team during the annual Senior-Faculty Game, Senior Coach Bojan Jovanovic attempts to create a strategy to defeat the faculty. "The team played hard and they never gave up." The teachers just came on top because they were much bigger than us," Jovanovic said of the seniors' loss to the faculty.

Seniors - Class of 2004 65

Jeannette Acuna



Class Government 12
FCLA 10, Aide 11

Greg Adams



Jennifer Agorio



Class Government 12
Choraleers 12, Concert
Choir 10, Fall Play 11, 12,
Varsity Choir 9, Velveteers
11

Sachif Athlag



Courtney Albright



Marching Band 10, 11, 12, Color
Guard 10, 11, 12, Color Guard
Captain 12, Drama 9, 10, 11, 12
Officer 10, 11, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12
Kids on the Block 9, 10, 11, 12
Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, Spring Play
9, 10, 12, Theaters 9, 10, 11, 12,
Theaters Officer 10, 11

Randall George Aleman



Football 9, 10, 11, Orchestra
9, 10, 11, 12, Spanish Club
10, 12

Catherine Alexander



Na'imah Hibari Ali



Concert Choir 9, Fall Play
12, Velveteers 12

Ryan Allender



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12,
Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12,
Bowling Team 9, 10, 11, 12,
Cross Country 9, 10, 11, Jazz
Impressions 9, Jazz Impact
10, 11, 12, Track 9, 10, 11

Dominic Angotti



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Pep-
Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Orchestra Wind
0, 11, Class Officer 11, 12, Class
Government 10, 11, 12, FCLA 11,
10, 11, 12, FCLA Officer 11, 12,
Gerrion Club 10, 11, Jazz Impact
9, 10, 11, 12, National Honor Society
11, 12, Student Government 9, 10, 11, 12

Eleni Ann Anton



Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, Softball
9, 10

Julian Arce



Sohail Azeem



Band 9, Class Officer 12, Class
Government 10, 11, 12, Debate 11, 12,
FCLA 12, Key Club 11, 12, NHS
11, 12, NHS Officer 12, Aide 11, 12,
Out Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Science
Olympiad 11, 12, Stu Govt 11, 12,
STAND 11, 12, Super Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12,
Tennis 10, 11, Hooper Boys State 11

Michael Bakos



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12

Tiarah Barker



Aide 12, Track 11, 12

Christine Barnack



Color Guard 9, Softball 12

Kryeta Baron



Justin Barron



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12,
Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Jazz
Impressions 9, 10, Jazz
Impact 10, 11, 12, Teacher
Aide 12

Jacqueline Barsch



Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12, Basketball
Captain 9, 10, Class Government
9, 10, 11, 12, Golf 9, 10, 11, 12, Golf
Captain 10, 11, 12, National Honor
Society 11, 12, Newspaper 11, 12, Quill
and Scroll 11, 12, Quill and Scroll
Officer 12, Prom Committee 11,
Photo Council 12, Yearbook 12,
Yearbook Senior Editor 12, Hooper
Girls State 11

Ayesha Basemore



Orchestra 9, 10, 11, Softball 12

Dee Juana Boes



Key Club 12

Brandon Brian Battle



Marching Band 9,10,11, Pep
Band 11, Revue 10

Bernard Leon Beard



Marching Band 9,10,11, Pep
Band 11, Class Officer 9,10
Drama Club 9,10,11,12 Fall
Play 9,10, Key Club 12, Kids
on the Block 9, Aide 12
PNN 12, Spring Play 10,11,12
Thespians 11,12, Track 10

Antonio Becerra



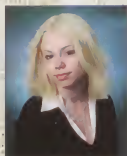
Building Trades 12, PNN
9,11, Revue 10,11

Ashley Marie Berger



Begging 12, 9,10, Basketball
Hoopscoring Princess 9,
Multisport 11, Prom
Committee 11,12, Quilt and
Scarf 12, SADD 12, Football
Trainer 10,11,12, Yearbook 12
Yearbook Lifestyles Editor 12

Stefanie Bishop



Tellah Blakey



Tiana Blakey



Brittney Treniece Blue



Basketball 10, Concert Choir
10,11,12, Key Club 12, Varsity
Choir 9

Paul Ransom Bothwell



Oscar Bradley



Greg Branch



Christina Braylock



Samantha Brazeau



Stacey Breen



Marching Band 9,10,11, Pep
Band 11, Class Government
12, Student Government 12,
Tennis 9,10,11,12, Tennis
Captain 9,10,11,12,
Yearbook 12

Bowling Team 9,10,11, Color
Guard 9,10, FCCLA
10,11,12, FCCLA Officer 11

Marian Bridges



Andre Courtney Brodie



Dominique Branson



Stephanie Kay Brosch



Korrian Brown



Autism 11, Prom
Committee 12

Frederick 9, PNN 9

Ovid Dim Brown



Drama Club 11, Key Club
12, PNN 11,12, Student
Government 12

Mabrie Brunmet



HERO 12, Softball 9, Varsity
Chair 9

Jennifer Bruven



Basketball 9, FOSA 10,11
Aide 12, Spanish Club 9,
STAND 9,10,11,12, Teens
for Christ 11

Christopher Bryen



Jeremy Bulhee



Stephen Burke



Concert Choir 9, Golf
9,10,11,12

Jonathan Burum



Anastacia Butler



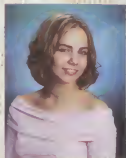
Dance Team 9,10, HERO 12,
Aide 11, Revue 10, Varsity
Chair 9

Christine Byrum



Concert Choir 10, Shesher
Chair 12, Varsity Choir 9,
Velesteers 11

Monika Castilovecha



Art Club 12, National Honor
Society 11,12

Cody Camp



Newspaper 12, Pirate Radio
10, PNN 9,10, Swimming,
9,11

Anthony Carl



Building Trades, 12

Jessica Carter



Heather Lynn Casady



Cheerleading 9, Choraleers
11, FCCLA 10,11, FCCLA
Officer 11, Franch Club 11,
Football Trainer 10,11,
Swimming 10, Varsity Choir
9, Velesteers 10

Andy Christopher



Debate 9, FCCLA 11,12,
National Honor Society 11,12

Joseph Justin Clark



Autoshop 12, Football 10,
Track 9,10,11

Matt Colbert



Marching Band 9,10,11,12,
Pep Band 9,10,11,12,
National Honor Society 11,12

Vincent Cole



Cheerleading 9,10,
Choraleers 10,11,12, PNN
11,12, Soccer 9,10,11,12,
Soccer Captain 12, Spring
Play 10, STAND 11, Track
9,10,11,12, Velesteers 11,12

Ronald Coleman



Kayanna Rosehawn Coleman



Basketball 9,10,11,12, Captain
12, Class Government 11,12,
Football Homecoming Court 12,
Football Homecoming Princess
9,10,11, Basketball Homecoming
Queen 12, Aide 12, PNN 12,
Prom Court 11, Spanish Club 11,
Velesteers 9,10,11,12, Captain 12

Cecil Collins



Marching Band 10,11, Pep
Band 11, Basketball 9,
Decathlon Team 11, Football
9,10,12, National Honor
Society 11,12, Super Bowl 12

Cecile Collins



Marching Band 10,11,12, Pep
Band 10,11,12, Bowling Team
9,10,11,12, Football 9

Julie Reince Collins



Gymnastics 9,10, Soccer
9,10,11,12, Soccer Captain
11,12, Track 9

Brenda Corner



Lavashia Corner



Track 10

Ashley Conroy



Edward A. Costereras



Pep Band 9,11, Football
9,10,11,12, Jazz Inspirations
9,10,11, Track 9,10,11

Clifford Cook



Cross Country 9,10,11,12
Cross Country Captain 12,
National Honor Society 11,12,
Track 9,10,11,12

Lavell Cook



Basketball 9,10,11,12,
Basketball Captain 10,11,
Concert Choir 9, P.N.N. 10

Natasha Copie

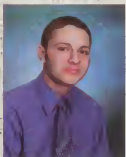


Class Government 12,
CCCLA 10,12, Student
Government 12

Shaun Crittenden



Nick Cunningham



Marching Band 9,10,11, Pep
Band 9,10,11, Track 9,
Winter Drum Line 10

Earl Currin



Joshua Curtis



Baseball 9,10,11, Building
Trades 12, Orchestra 9,10,11

Allison Cuzbalt



Decathlon Team 11, FFA
10,11,12, Key Club 10,11,12,
National Honor Society 11,12,
Super Bowl 10,11,12

Mark Daily



Ashley Dailie



Football 9, Teacher Aide 12,
Pirate Radio 10,11,12, P.N.N.
10,11,12, STAND 12

Brad Daniel



Autoshop 12, Baseball 9,
Newspaper 11, P.N.N. 12,
Athletic Office Aide 12,
Pirate Radio 12, G.M.I. and
Soccer 12, Soccer 9,10,11,12,
Soccer Captain 12,
Yearbook 12, Yearbook
Sports Editor 12

Michelle Lynna Danko



National Honor Society 11,12,
Guitarist 11,12,
Orchestra 9,10,11,12, STAND
10,11,12

A.J. Davis



Marching Band 9,10,11, Pep
Band 9,10,11, Cheerleaders
10,11,12, Drama Club 12, Fall
Play 11,12, Prom Court 11,
Prom King 11, Revue 11, Spring
Play 10, Vocalists 10,11,12

Christina Davis



Concert Choir 10, Key Club 12,
STAND 12, Varsity Cheer 9,
Volunteers 11, Vocalist 12

Jaqueline Davon



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, Pep Band
11, Basketball 9, 10, Class Officer
10, 11, Class Government 9, 10, 11, 12,
JETS 11, 12, Key Club 11, 12, National
Honor Society 11, 12, Prom Committee
11, 12, Science Olympiad 11, 12, SIT
Gov 19, 30, 11, 12, Tennis Mgr. 12,
Super Bowl 11, 12, Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12

Samuel Deidgla



Soccer

Lisa De La Rosa



Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12

Angela DeLong



FCCLA 11, 12

Kimberly Sue Denning



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12,
Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12, French
Club 12, National Honor
Society 11, 12, National French
Test 11, 12

Julie DeMuth



Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12,
Basketball Captain 12,
Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12,
Volleyball Captain 12

Brittney Dieterle



HERO 12

Michael Dixon



Keenija Djukic



Marko Djukic



Jazz Impact 12

DeShaunte N. Dominguez



Basketball Homecoming
Princess 11, Key Club 12

Joshua Donahue



Bowling Team 9, 10, 11, 12,
Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12

Elizabeth Ann Doneelson



Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12

Patricia Dooley



Jervai Drago



Key Club 11, 12, Spanish Club
12, STAND 12, Football
Manager 12, Tennis for
Christ 12

Julius Drake



Marissa Dumas



Myelsha Domingue Dunlap



Keith Earl



Keith Eaton Jr.



Charalleers 10/11/12, Concert
Choir 9, Fall Play 10/11/12,
FCCLA 11/12, STAND
10/11/12, Vocalists 10/11/12

Trevor Eich



Raleigh Enslen



Marching Band 9, 10/11/12
Pep Band 11/12, Gull
9/10/11/12, Gull Captain 12,
Size Impact 11/12

Erica Faulkner



Key Club 12

Joanne G. Flores



Class Government 12, Dance Team
9/10/11/12, Ballroom Homcoming
Princess 9, Ball and Scroll 12,
Spanish Club 12, SADD 12, Football
Trainer 12, Yearbook 12, Yearbook
Sophomore Editor 12

Amie Camille Frost



Onette Gatin



Football 9/10/11/12

Steven Gavel



Jaclyn George



Class Officer 11/12, National
French Test 10, Softball
9/10/11/12, Student
Government 12, STAND
9/10/11/12, Volleyball 9,
Volleyball Captain 9

Justin Gesting

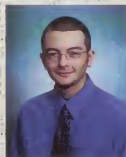


Ashley Gidley



Dance Team 9/10, Dance
Team Captain 10, Aide 9,
Soccer Manager 12

Richard Gill



Samara Gjurmova



Russian Club 12, Russian Club
Officer 12

Aubrey Goble



Joshua Gonzalez



Marching Band 9/10/11/12,
Pep Band 9/10/11/12

Lisa Graf



Spanish Club 12, STAND 9,
Volleyball 10

Darrell Graham



Benjamin Lehi Graves



Baseball 9, Chessleading
11/12, Charalleers 9/10/11/12,
Drama Club 12, Fall Play
11/12, German Club 10/11,
P.N.H. 12, Natural Healers 9,
Renew 11/12, Soccer 10/11/12,
Spring Play 10/12, Track 10,
Vocalists 9/10/11, Whistling
9

Verona Gregory



Lorne Grimmer



Marching Band 9/10/11/12,
Pep Band 9/10/11/12

Rodney L. Grove III



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, Pep Band 9, 10, 11, Jazz Impressions II, Student Government 10, 11, 12, Student Government Officer 12

Justin Grzybowski



Sonyia Guerrero



Teens for Christ II

Roshelle Gunn



Matthew Gutierrez



Heidi Hammond



Jonathan Hardy



Lindsey Harrell



Nikkaya Harrell



Brandon Harris



Basketball 9, Cheerleading 10, 11, Football Homecoming Princess 10, Peer Mediator 12, Prom Court 11, Softball 9, 10, 11, 12, Softball Captain 12, Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12, Volleyball Captain 12

Drama Club 11, 12, STAND 12

Bowling Team 9, 10, 11, Decathlon Team 11, 12, FEA 11, French Club 10, 11, 12, French Club Officer 12, Key Club 10, National Honor Society 11, 12, National French Test 10, 11, 12

Key Club 11, 12

Drama Club 9, 10, 11, Fall Play 9, Aide 11, 12, P.N.N. 11, Spring Play 11, Treasures 11, 12

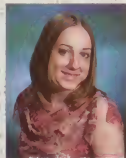
Kyanna Harris



Renee Hatcher



Bridget Marie Hauber



Stacey Hauch



Tamara Hayman



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, Pep Band 9, 10, Basketball 9, Key Club 11, 12, Tennis 10, 11

SOSA 12, French Club 11, 12, Key Club 11, 12, Orchestra 12, Peer Mediator 12, Prom Court 11, 12

JoJuana Hemphill



Ricardo Hernandez



Vanessa Hernandez



Emily Herzog



Jerina Rebecca Hill



Art Club 12, Marching Band 9, 10, FCCLA 11, 12

Band 9, Basketball 12, Class Council 12, Civil Court 10, 11, 12, Choir 10, 11, 12, FCCLA 12, Football 9, Key Club 11, 12, NHS 11, 12, WYHS 10, 11, 12, RNW 11, 12, Revenue 10, 11, 12, Student Advisory 10, 11, 12, SADD 11, 12, Officer 11, 12, STAND 10, 11, 12, Swimming 10, Track 10, 11, 12, Captain 12

Natural Helpers 11, 12, Newspaper 12, Newspaper Features Editor 12, Aide 12, Varsity Cheer 9, 12

Football Trainer 9, 10, Gymnastics 9, 10, Softball 9, 10, 11, 12, Softball Captain 12

Travis Hodges



Amanda Holly



Mallory Leigh Hamblin



Drama Club 10, Orchestra
9/10/11/12, Soccer 9/10/11/12,
Soccer Captain 10

Donnie Hopson



Baseball 9, Football
9/10/11/12, Football Captain
12

Takara Houston



Key Club 12, Girls Track
Manager 12

Shelley Howard



Key Club 12

Ed Howe



Class Officer 10, Class
Government 10, Student
Government 10

Matt Huber



Teacher Aide 11/12, Sports
Club 10/11/12, Spanish Club
Officer 11/12

Charles Humphrey



Raven Ivey



Marching Band 9, Key Club
12, PNN 10

Brandon Jackson



Jasmine Jackson



Charalans 12, Drama Club
9/10, National Honor Society
10/11/12

Marquis Jackson



Melissa Claire Jackson



FEA 10/11/12, HERO 12,
Teacher Aide 11, Swimming
Manager 10, Softball,
Manager 10, Swimming 9,
Varsity Cheer 10

Pavle Jankulovski



Football 11, German Club
11/12, National Honor Society
11/12, PNN 11/12, Russian Club
11/12

Kanesha Jennings



Key Club 11, STAND 9/10,
Teens for Christ 11/12, Track
9/10/11/12

John Johnson



Football 10/11/12

Randall Johnson



Class Govt 9, Officer 9,
Cheerleaders 10/11/12, SFS 9,
Decathlon 11/12, Drama 11/12, Fall
Play 11/12, JETS 11/12, NHS 11/12,
Quiz Bowl 9/10/11/12, Renate 10,
Spell Bowl 9/10/11/12, Spring Play
10/11/12, Stu Govt 9, Girls Tennis
Mgr 10, Super Bowl 9/10/11/12,
Tennis 9/10/11/12, Theplatz 11/12,
Vocalists 10/11/12

Sharea Johnson



Tara Johnson



Courtney Choir 10, Dance
Teals 9/10/11/12, FCCLA 9,
Relays 10, STAND 12, Varsity
Cheer 9, Vetsvets 11/12

Tiffani Johnson



Zachary Johnson



Marshay Jolly



Ashley Renee Jones



Brandin Marshon Jones



Basketball 9/10/11/12
Basketball Captain 10/11/12
National Honor Society 11/12
Teens for Christ 11/12
Volleyball 9

Marching Band 9/10/11/12
Pep Band 11/12 Class
Government 12 Diving
9/10/11/12 Diving Captain
12 Orchestra 11/12 Teens for
Christ 11

Track 11

Derrick Anthony Jones



DeShunda Jones



Kelen Johnson



Bojan Jovanovic



Sumayah Karim



Basketball 9/10

Key Club 12

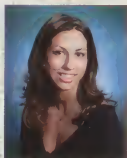
Basketball 9/10/11/12 From
Capt. 11/12 Quilt and Scroll 12
Soccer 9/10/11/12 Yearbook
12 Yearbook Sophomore
and Academic Editor 12

Orchestra 10/11/12 Rescue 12
Spanish Club 12 STAND 12

Amber Kaete



Pauline Tami Katsouras



Gagandeep Kaur



Nicholas Germaine Kazanice



Jonathan Kelley



National Honor Society 11/12
Orchestra 9/10/11

Class Gov 9/11/12 Fall Play 11, FEA
10, Officer 10, Golf 9/11/12
Officer 12 Aide 12 Quilt and Scroll
12 SADD 12 Boys Tennis Mar 10
Football Trainer 12 Tennis 9/10/11/12
Captain 9, Show Choir 9/10/11
Yearbook 12 Junior and Performing
Arts Editor 12

FCCLA 10/12 FCCLA
Officer 10/12 Orchestra
9/10/11/12 STAND 9/12

Marching Band 12 Pep
Band 11/12 Football
9/10/11/12 Football Captain
9 Wrestling 9

Jason Lawrence Kendra



Amber Rae Kimbrow



Jacqueline Kish



Janie Rene Kistinger



Jeff Kluga



Pep Band 9/10 Basketball
9 French Club 9/10/11/12
Teacher Aide 12 Quilt and
Scroll 12 Soccer 9/10/11/12
Soccer Captain 12
Yearbook 12 Yearbook
Business Manager 12
Hoosier Boys State 11

Aide 12 Natural Helper 10
STAND 12

Marching Band 9/10/11/12
Pep Band 9/10/11/12 FCCLA
11

Marching Band 9/10/11/12 Pep
Band 9/10/11/12 French
Club 10/11/12 French
Club Officer 12 National
Honor Society 11/12
Newspaper 11/12 Pirate
Council 12 Quilt and Scroll 12
Yearbook 12 Yearbook Editor
12 Hoosier Girls State 11

Autograph 11/12

Aaron Kochet



Marching Band 9

Phillip Kenneth Komisarick II



Football 9, 10, 12

Eric Konefal



Autoshop 12, Golf 10

Jesse Koon



Class Graft 12, Honors 9, 10, 11, 12;
Officers 12, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12;
FGLA 9, 10, 11, 12, Officer 11, 12;
German Club 11, Kids on the Block 9;
Natural Helpers 9, 10, PHN 11, 12;
Revue 9, 10, 11, 12, Spring Play 9, 10, 11,
12, Sea Graft 10, 11, 12, Males for Christ
11, Theatrics 9, 10, 11, 12, Officer 12

Megan Terese Kope



Choraleers 11, 12, Drama Club 11, 12;
Fall Play 11, 12, National Honor
Society 11, 12, Spanish Club 12, Spring
Play 10, Theatrics 11, 12, Varsity
Choir 9, Vexileers 10, Vocalists
11, 12

Carl Kortum



Autoshop 11, Swimming 10, 11,
Track 10, ...

Joshua Kessel



Patrick Kosow



Autoshop 12, Marching
Band 9, Pep Band 9

Kelly Kourtesie



Brandon Krent



Autoshop 12

Shay Nicole Kuzma



Teacher Aide 9, Soccer
9, 10, 11, 12, Soccer Captain
11, 12

Laura Marie Lackey



Megan Marie Lacey



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12;
Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Cross
Country 11, 12, Track
9, 10, 11, 12, Volleyball 9, 10

Nicole Lagale



German Club 11, Natural
Helpers 9, 10, 11, Newspaper
10, Pirate Radio 10, PHN
11, 12, Teens for Christ 9, 10

Erika Larson



Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12,
Swimming Captain 11, 12

Erica Leavins



Civil Government 12,
Football Manager 10,
Varsity Choir 9, 10

Danielle Lee



Autoshop 11, Debate 9

Pony Lee



Key Club 12, ...

Rebecca Lee



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12;
Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12, FGLA
12, National Honor Society
11, 12

Ian Lesto



Autoshop 11, Basketball 9,
HBO 12

Christine Leue



Marching Band 9,10,11,12
Pep Band 11, Cross Country,
9,10,11,12, Cross Country
Captain 12, National Honor
Society 11,12, Softball 9,
Swimming 9,10,11,12, Track
10,11,12

Rebecca Longacre



Chess 10,
Choraleers 11,12, S.O.S.A.,
12, Debate 11, Drama Club
12, Revue 11,12, Spring Play
10, Velvettes 11, Vocalists
12

Samantha Yin Ling Loa



Choraleers 11,12, S.O.S.A. 12,
Drama Club 12, Fall Play
11,12, NHS 12, Revue 11, Spring
Play 10, SADD 10, STAND
10,11, Officer 10, Teens for
Christ 12, Variety Choir 9,
Velvettes 10, Vocalists 12

Amida Lopez



Synthia Lopez



Dimitrij Lozovski



Autoshop 11,12

Nicholas Luevano



Joe Lutinen



Building Trades 11,12

Princess Gracie Madison



Key Club 11, PNNHS 11,12

Kelly Magee



Key Club 12, Student
Government 12, STAND
11,12

Hilary Rose Ann Marinich



Fall Play 9, French Club
10,11,12, National Honor
Society 11,12, National French
Team 9,10,11,12, Nucle 12,
Orchestra 9,10,11, STAND
10,11,12, STAND Officer
10,11

Josh Marlow



Jamie Marsh



Lyniece Marshall



Jennifer Mason



Softball 9,10,11,12

Michael Massengill



Michelle Matheny



FCCH 10,11,12, CCLA
Officer 12

Tiffany Diabari McCauley



Dance Team 10,11,12, Dance
Team Captain 12

Ashley McGay



Track 12, Newspaper 10

Dejevon McFerson



Rico Robert Merced



Newspaper Photo Editor 10
Aide 12 Yearbook 12
Yearbook Senior Editor 12

Angela Merritt



Art Club 12, Glass Government 10
Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12, FEA 10
HSO 12, Key Club 11, 12, Key Club
Officer 11, Student Advisory
Committee 10, Student Government
9, 10, Thespians 12

Stephanie Mesa



Courtney Miano



Varsity Choir 9

Brandon L. Miller



Art Club 12, Auto Shop 12
Mapping Band 9, 10
Varsity 9

Ryan Charles Miller



Laurie E. Mitchell



Monica Mitro



Katherine Montalbano



Julie Montemayor



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Pep
Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Decathlon Team,
11, 12, Jazz Impact 10, 11, 12
Newspaper 12, NHS 11, 12, Quiz
Bowl Team 9, 10, 11, 12, Spell Bowl
Team 9, 10, 11, 12, Super Bowl
9, 10, 11, 12, Hoopster Boys State 11

Marching Band 9, 10, Pep
Band 9, Key Club 12
National Honor Society 11, 12
SAND 11, 12, Teams for
Christ 11, 12

Natural Helpers 10

Gymnastics 11, Spring Play
10, 11, 12, Sweethearts 12
Varsity Choir 9, Vets Vets
10, 11, 12

Justin Moore



Teara Morning



Jeannelle Moreno



Brandon Mosley



Christopher Muehlenburg



Key Club 12, Aide 12, Track
9, 10, 12

Key Club 12, Peer Mediators

Baseball 9, 10, Football
9, 10, 11, 12, Football Captain
12, PHSN 11, 12, PHSN Court 11
Natural Helpers 12, Track
9, 10, 11, 12, Track Captain 12

Kathryn Murray



Jennifer Davin Mustafa



James Myelinic Jr.



Cecy Nachody



John Nagelsky IV



Choir 10, 11, 12, Dance
Team 9, 10, Drama 10, 11, 12
Officer 12, Fall Play 11, 12
Kids on the Block 11, 12, Revue
10, 11, 12, Spring Play 10, 11, 12
Swimming 10, Thespians
10, 11, 12, Officer 12
Vets 10, 11, 12, Vocalists
11, 12

Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12, Track 11, 12

Spirit Olympics 11, 12
Chess Club 10, 11
Pole Vault 12

Kyle Naumovich



Christopher Nawracal



Student Advisory Committee
9/10/11/12

Brian Nay



Spanish Club 12

Eric Nelson



Baseball 9/10, Football 9

Carol Newell



Football Homecoming Court
2 Basketball Homecoming
Process 9/10/11/PSN 12
Prom Court 11 Prom Queen
11 Student Government 9
Volleyball 9/10/11/12
Volleyball Captain 12

John Neylon



Megan Nichols



Basketball 9, Key Club 12

Walter Nickerson



Ashley Obregon



Soccer 9/10 Swimming 11

Shawn Offee



Football 9 Golf 9/10/11/12
Golf Captain 12

Zachary James Offee



Cory Olivarez



Wrestling 10

Neil Osborne



Marching Band 9/10/11/12
Pop Band 9/10/11/12 Jazz
Impressions 9 Jazz Impact
10/11/12 National Honor
Society 11/12

Danielle Ovanek



Choraleers 11/12 Dance
Team 11 Drama Club 10/11
Fall Play 11 Golf 9 AVID 11
Summer Play 10 Varsity Club
9 Varsity 10/11

Nick Pajon



Football 9/10/11/12

Melissa Paniagua



Brandon Parke



Wrestling 10

Rebecca Parrish



Marching Band 9 HERO 12
Key Club 11/12

Kristine Pastek



Key Club 12 Newspaper
10 PSN 11 National Helpers
11/12 Softball 9/10/11/12

Lexi Paz



Wrestling 10/11/12

Choraleers 11/12 Dance Team
9/10/11 Captain 11 Drama 10/11/12
Fall Play 11/12 Football Homecoming
Court 12 NHS 11/12 Officer 12
National Spanish Test 11 Spring Play
10 Tennis 11 Thespians 11/12 Varsity
Choir 9 Varsity 10/11/12 Vocalists
11/12

Tabitha Pepper



STAND 9

Cristina Perryman



Drama Club 12, Key Club 11/12

Emily Peters



Band 9, 10, 11, 12, French Club 10, 11, 12, Jazz Impressions 9, Jazz Impact 10, 11, 12, NHS 11, 12, National French Fest 9, 11, 12, Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12, Captain 10, 11, Winter Drum Line 10, U Honors Program 11

Carmen LaReese Pickett



Glee, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, Fall Play 11, 12, Key Club 12, Newspaper 12, Newspaper Opinion Editor 12, Peer Mediator 10, PNN 12, Student Government 11, 12, Years for Cylex 12, Track 10, 12, Velvets 11, 12, NHS 11

Alicia Pinkins



Key Club 12, Aida 11, 12, Japhrese Club 9, 10, SET Club 9, 10, Dance Team 9, 10

Joe Plukas III



Autoshoot 11, 12, National German Fest 11, Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12, Captain 11, 12

Jason Plye



Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12, Baseball Captain 12

Jonathan Polak



Football 9, Track 9, 10

Adam R. Poling



Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Drama Club 9, French Club 9, 10, Jazz Impressions 11, 12, Student Government 11, 12, STAND 10, 11, 12, Winter Drum Line 10, 11

Ashley Poling



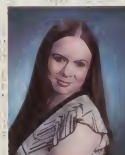
Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Pep Band 10, 11, 12, Drama Club 9, Fall Play 9, French Club 11, 12, National Honor Society 11, 12, Orchestra 11, STAND 10, 11, 12, Winter Drum Line 10, 11

Kathryn E. Potts



HERC 12

Tiffany Potts



Concert Choir 9

Jeremy Powell



Taleia Shurday Powell



PNN 9, 10, Student Activity Committee 9, 10, 11, 12, Varsity Choir 9

Diana Prentoshi



Basketball 9, 10, Track 10, 11, 12, Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12, Weightlifting Competition 11, 12

Justin Previs



Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12, Building Trades 12, Football 9, 10, 11, 12, National Helpers 11, Wrestling 9

Alexandria Price



Marching Band 9

Kristof Price



Adam Purnica



Robin Ratcliff



Greenbacking 9, 10, Glass Country 9, Dance Team 9, 10, 11, Debate 9, 10, Drama Club 9, 10, French Club 9, 10, 11, Gymnastics 9, 10, Newspaper 9, 10, Peer Mediator 9, 10, 11, Natural Helpers 9, Track 9, 10, 11, Explorers Club Drill Team, Criminal Justice Club

Daniel Rathburn



Cyleste Reed



Marching Band 9
Swimming 11

Alec E. Reeder



Choraleers 12, Drama
Club 1112, Fall Play 1112,
Football 1112, Spring Play
1112, Swimming 1112,
Swimming Captain 1112,
Thespians 1112, Track 1112

Joel Remaley



Football 9

Andrea Resto



Analia Ricard



Peer Mediator 12, Track 9

Lindsey Raquel Richards



Basketball 9-10, 11, 12, Class
Gov't 9-10, 11, 12, Golf 9,
Football Homecoming Court
12, NHS 1112, Quil and
Scarf 12, Softball 9-10, 11, 12,
Football Trainer 9-10, 11, 12,
Yearbook 12, Clubs and
Activities Editor 12

Dorinn Roberts



Brandon Robertson



Rebecca Robinson



Special Olympics 9-10, 11,
Bowling 9-10, 11, 12, Track
9-10, 11, 12, Gymnastics 10,
Snowboarding 10, Volleyball
9-10, 11, 12, Letter Award
Winner 11

Leslie Rodgers



Michelle Rodriguez



Sharise Rogers



Greg Ross



Grace Rund



Key Club 1112

Jerin B. Russell



Kevin Sabarniak



Basketball 9-10, Soccer 11

Scott Sabarniak



Basketball 9-10, 11, 12, Soccer
10, 11

Jeremy Salas



Football 9, Private Radio 10,
PNN 1112, Student
Government 9-10

April Samuels



Basketball Homecoming,
Princess 9-10, Key Club 11,
Aide 12, Orchestra
9-10, 11, 12, Prom Court 11, Track 10

Lionel Sanchez



Revue 12

Rosalinda Sanchez



Basketball 9, 10, 11; Soccer
9, 11, 12; Football Trainer
10, 11, 12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12;
Varsity Chor 9

Troy A. Sandifer



HERO 12

Virtina Savage



Marching Bands 9, 10, 11; Pep
Band 9; Basketball 9, 10
STAND 12; Track 10, 11, 12
Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12
Weightlifting Competition
Champion 11

Jonathan Savin



Marching Band 9, 10, 11; Pep
Band 9, 10, 11; Building
Tables 11, 12; Winter Quin
Line 9

Tara Schaab



Krystal Schmitt



HERO 12

Kenneth Scott



HERO 12; Natural Helpers
10

Stephanie Ann Sepulveda



Eric Severson

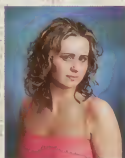


Basketball 9, 10; Cross,
Country 11, 12; Cross Country
Captain 12; Track 11, 12

Scott T. Shellhart



Aneta Sikoska



Kelly Renee Simanson



Class Government 12
Concert Choir 10, 11, 12; Fall
Play 12; Aide 12; Spring
Play 12; Student Government
12; Varsity Choir 9,
Yearbook 10

DeShona Alyce Slater



Aerial Smith



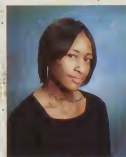
Jason Christopher Smith



Kendra Smith



Rosetta Smith



Key Club 12; Office Aide 12

Skylar Smith



Allison Snyder



HERO 12; Aide 9; Orchestra
9

Bowling Team 9, 10, 11, 12;
Class Government 12; P.N.N.
10, 11, 12; Student Government
12; WMHS 10, 11, 12

Aide 12

Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12

Megan Sobierajski



Dance Team 9/10

Aaron Soloplowski



Swimming Trades 11/12

Lindsey Solomon



HERO 12, STAND 10, Track
9/10/11/12, Volleyball 9

Derrin Spencer



Baseball 9, Football 9
French Club 12, Key Clubs 12
Natural Helpers 12
Wrestling 12, Drum Line 9

Nicholas St. Clair



HERO 12

Justin Dean Stanley



Football 9/10/12, Orchestra
9/10/11/12

Tara Stanley



FCCLA 10/11/12, FCCLA
Office 11/12, Natural
Helpers 12, Valentine's Day
Dance Queen 10

Jeremy Stemple



Kyle Stewart



Nicole Stompor



Art Club 12, Cheerleading
8/10/11/12, Class Government
9/10/11/12, French Club 10/11/12,
Quiz and Scroll 12, Student
Government 10/11/12, Track
10/11/12, Yearbook 12, Yearbook
People and Faculty Editor 12

Nathan Street



Marching Band 9/10/11/12
Pep Band 9/10/11/12
Bowling Team 9/10/11/12
Jazz Impressions 9/10, Jazz
Impact 11/12, National Honor
Society 11/12

Sara Ann Street



Golf 10, HERQ 12, Track 11

Daniel Stram



Concert Choir 9/10/11

Cathryn Stupic



Concert Choir 9, National
Honor Society 11/12
Swimming 10/11/12
Volleyball 10

Jeff Sturm



Marching Band 9

Jodi Suggs



Cheerleading 9/10/11/12
Cheerleading Captain 9
Concert Choir 10, Fall Play
11, Revue 11, Varsity Choir 9
Volleyball 11/12

Basirat Sulaman



Christel Sumichrast



Varsity Choir 9

Elise Szany



Marching Band 9/10/11/12
Pep Band 11/12, Drama 10/11
French Club 11/12, National
Honor Society 11/12
Swimming 9, Winter Drum
Line 9/10/11

Joseph Steven Szczepka III



Wrestling 9/10/11/12

Natalia Taleff



JAN 12

Nikia Tanna



HERO 12 Key Club 11 Teens
for Christ 11 Track 10 11
Varsity Choir 10

Tanya Tarell



Rebecca Elizabeth Terres



Decorations 11 12 Fall Play
11 12 National Honor Society
11 12 Spring Play 10 Varsity
Choir 9 Velleweers 10
Vocalists 11 12

Alex Thien



Christopher Tokarebi



Robert Toth



David Trajkovski



Baseball 11 10 11 12 Football
9 10 11 12 From Court 11

Jeremy Tubbs



Baseball 11 Basketball 9 10
Football 9 10 Fresh Club
9 11 Track 9

Jh Rome Tuggle



Baseball 9 Football
9 10 11 12 PNN 11 12 Track
9 10 11 12 Track Captain 12
Wrestling 10 11 12 Wrestling
Captain 12

Randall Turney



William Alan Urban



Steven Vanek



National Honor Society 11 12
Prom Committee 12 Spanish
Club 11 12 Student
Government 10 11 12 Student
Government Officer 12

Jalynn Vargas



Dance Team 9 10 11 12
Dance Team Captain 11 12
National Honor Society 11 12
Softball 9

Tommy Vechey



Baseball 10 Football 9 10
Wrestling 9 10 11 12
Wrestling Captain 11 12

Melissa Velazco



Stephens Veltman



Kimberly A. Verdazco



Art Club 12 Color Guard 9
Teacher Aide 9 10 11 12
Wrestling Manager
9 10 11 12

Raymon A. W. Vickerstaff



Marching Band 9 10 11 12 Pep
Band 9 10 11 12
Impressions 9 10 11 Key Club
12 Winter Drum Line 10
CAD Process 12

Jessica Wade



Cheerleading 11 Spanish
Club 9 10 11 Track 10 11 12

Environmental Club 11 12
Environmental Club Officer
11 12 Key Club 11 Marine
Biology 10 11 Orchestra
9 10 11 12 Prom Committee
12 Natural Helpers 9
STAND 9 10 11 12

Melissa Jade Wadley



ECIA 1112, ACIA Officer 12,
Key Club 1112, Key Club Officer 12,
National Honor Society 12, National
Speech Team 12, Aide 12, Peer
Mediator 1112, STAND 1112,
Swimming 9,10,12, Teens for Christ
12, Volleyball 9, Peer Helper

Robert A. Wahlman II



Varsity 12, Football 9,11,
Soccer 10, Spring Sports
Trainer 12, Wrestling
9,10,11,12, Wrestling
Captain 12

Jon Michael Wargo



Decathlon 12, Drama 9,10,11,12
Officer 11,12, Fall Play 9,10,11,12, FEA
11,12, French Club 10,11,12, Officer 12,
Kids on the Block 10,11,12, Nat.
French Test 10,12, Orchestra 9,10,11,
Revue 9,10,11,12, Science Olympiad
9,11, Spring Play 9,10,11,12,
Thespians 9,10,11,12, Officer 11,12

Jonathan Warus



Band 9,10, Club 11, 9-12,
Decathlon 12, Drama 9-12, Fall/Spring
Plays 9-12, FEA 11,12, French Club
4,10,11,12, Jazz Band 9, JETS 11,12, Key
Club 11, Kids on the Block 12, NHS
11,12, Nat. French Test 11,12, Aide 12,
Peer Mediator 10,11,12, Revue 11,12,
Science Olympiad 11, Spell Bowl 9,
Stu. Gov't 9,10,12, Thespians 9-12

Jasmelle Washington



Megan E. Watson



Natalie L. Weall



Basketball 10, Concert Choir
12, Crest Country 10,11, Fall
Play 12, German Club
Officer 9, National German
Test 11, Wrestling Manager
11, Track 10,11

Amy Renee Wedding



Dance Team 9, Track
Manager 11, Trainer 12,
Track 12, Volleyball
9,10,11,12, Volleyball
Captain 12

Meghan Westphal



Bowling Team 12, Natural
Helpers 9,10, Volleyball 11

Wilbert Wilkerson



Christopher Williams



Crest Country 12, Football
9, Peer Mediator 12, Track
10,11,12, Wrestling 11,12

Jerry Williams



Basketball 9, Basketball
Captain 9, Football
9,10,11,12, Football Captain
12, NHS 12, Track 9,10,11,12,
Wrestling 11,12, Wrestling
Captain 12

Khalisa Williams



Black History Play 10,
Drama Club 9,10,11,12, Fall
Play 12, Key Club 11,12, Key
Club 11,12, NHS 9,10,11,12,
Sports Club 11, Thespians
12, Volleyball 9,10, Winter
One Act Play 11

Lindey Williams



Brenee Wilson



Dale Wilson



Baseball 9,10

Kathleen Wilson



Band 9,10,11,12, Color Guard 9,10,
11,12, Crest Country 10,11,12, Drama
9,10,11,12, Fall Play 9,10,11,12, Kids
on the Block 9,10, NHS 12, Teacher
Aide 11, Orchestra 9,10,11,12, Pn
Fall 9,10, VHS 9, Revue
9,10,11,12, Spring Play 9,10,11,12,
Thespians 9,10,11,12, Track 10,11,12

Courtney Woodfaul



Basketball 9, Key Club 12,
Natural Helpers 10, Natural
Helpers Officer 10

Sandra Sharise Wright



Terrell Yagelaki



Baseball 10, Building Trust
12, Peer Mediator 10,11,12

Jeremy Yarrington



Marine Biology 9,10. Teachers
for Christ 9,10

Joshua Yoldash



Samantha Yurechko



Choraleers 11,12. SOSA 10,11.
Officer 10. Fall Play 10,11,12. FSA
12. French Club 12. Aide 12. STAND
12. Tams 9. Varsity Choir 9.
Velleeteens 10. Winter Drum Line 10

Zivan Zakula



Gabriel Ziegler



French Club 9. Key Club 12.
Newspaper 9. Pratts Radio
9,10. Prom Committee 12.
Soccer 11,12. STAND 10,11,12.
Track 10,11,12

Anna Marie Ziemnick



Jorge Alvarez

Blair Christine Amelise
Art Club 12. Concert Choir 9,12.
Velleeteens 10.

Tanesha Armstrong

Deandria Blue
Key Club 12. Gary Area
Career Center

Laura Megan Brake
Swimming 9,10,11

Latrice Brooks

Jessica Brown
Madrigal Band 9,10. Color
Guard 9,10. Teacher Aide 10,11

Phillip Buddie

Amanda Cainall
Chorusleading 10. Newspaper 11.
Soccer 11. Spanish Club 10,11.
SADD 11. Yearbook 10

Erin Coughlin
Special Olympics 9,10,11,12

Kristina R. Coughlin

Ashlyn Evans
Raffael Foster

Nick Fulton

Autoshop 12

Joseph Gray

Jay Gober
Baseball 10. Basketball 10

Kelly Gouwens
Bowling Team 10,11

Jeffrey Gregory
Autoshop 11,12. Football 9. Aide
10,12

Joseph Gutierrez

Nichole Handley
Trent Alan Harris
Football 9,10,11,12. Football
Captain 9,12. French Club 10,11.
Mr. Football 12. Student Trainer
12. Track 10,11,12. Wrestling 9,10

Suretha Hill
Color Guard 10. STAND 12.
Girls' Track Manager 11.
Football Trainer 10. Tams for
Chris 11,12

John Kasper

Marshaena Kendrick

El Kookich

Jeremy Lindsey

Zack Moles

Jason R. Mozolan

Jason McClinton

Patrick McGee

Isaiah Mercado
Basketball 9,10. Choraleers 11.
Crescent County J.L. Diving 10.
Dragon Club 10,11,12. Fall Play
9,10,11. Fellowship of Students
Athletes 9,10. Football 9,10.
Revue 11,12. Swimming 10. Track
9,10,11,12. Velleeteens 11,12

Tierra Mabley

Noel Majco

Krista Marie Mantalva
Newspaper 9. Aide 10.
Japanese Club 10,11. Spanish
Club 11

David Morrow
Basketball 9,10. FCLA 10.
Key Club 12. Soccer 10,11. Track
9,10,11,12

Raymond Neely

Ariel O'Neil
Track 9,10

Tatiana Paige
Basketball 9. Cheerleading
9,10. Choraleers 11. Concert
Choir 11. Cross Country 9.
Volleyball 9

Louis Panayi

Kevin Quirk

Colin Roberts
Marching Band 9,10,11,12. Pep
Band 9,10,12. Jett's Impact
11,12

Reginald Roberts

Vince Rogers
Autoshop 12

Mylon Scott

Kevin Semmes

Julius Sherrard

Justin Stokes
Concert Choir 12

Paul Terrebonne

Longshia Thomas
Basketball 9,10,11,12. Captain
10,12. Class Government 10.
JETS 11. Key Club 12. National
Honor Society 10,11,12. Spanish
Club 12. STAND 12

Clinton Tucker

Immanuel Vega

Edward Vega Jr.
Basketball 9

Antchelle Vines

Antonia Vinson

Lucius Wade

Marissa Walls
Newspaper 11,12. Aide 11. Quil
and Sew 11,12

Jerrad Wilcher
Autoshop 12. Basketball 11,12.
Track 12

Marissa Williams

Bernard Worsham
Marching Band 9,10,11. Pep
Band 9,10

David Wright
Football 9,10,11,12. Peer
Mediator 11,12. Track 9

Daniel Wydro

Camera Shy Seniors

Jeffrey Zweig II



Choraleers 10,11,12. Concert
Choir 9,10,11,12. SOSA
9,10,11,12. Drama 9,10,11,12.
Fall Play 9,11,12. P.N.N.
9,10,11,12. Spring Play 9,12.
Thespians 9,10,11,12. Varsity
Choir 10,11,12. Velleeteens
10,11,12. Wrestling 9

Senior Choice Awards

Best Smile

Bojan Jovanovic



Ashley Berger

Most Intelligent

Ryan Miller



Allison Czubik

Most Spirited

Ashley Dallas



Shawn Okeefe

Cutest Couple

A.J. Davis



Tiarina Coleman

Best Hair

Tara Schaab



Thomas Vehey

Best Body

Brandon Mosley



Carol Newell

Best Car

Michelle Rodriguez



Sohail Azeem

Best Actor/Actress

Jon Wargo



Courtney Allright

Best Eyes

Monika Cadikovsky



Benjamin Graves

Senior Choice Awards

Best Personality

Bolan Jovanovic



Jenna Hill

Most Talkative

Samantha Loo



Brad Daniel

Most Popular

Brandon Kelly



Tiana Coleman

Most Likely to Succeed

Allison Czubik



Ryan Miller

Best Dancer

A.J. Davis

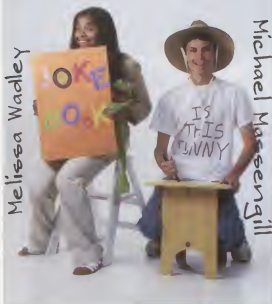


Jolynn Vargas

Class Clown

Melissa Wadley

Michael Massengill



Most Actively Involved

Ashley Dallas

Ricardo Hernandez



Best Dressed

Clifford Cook

Joanne Flores



Most Musical

Benjamin Graves

Jennifer Mustafa



Most Athletic

Jerry Williams

Julie DeMuth



Senior Breakfast



Videotaping the Senior Drive Around, Eleni Anton and Courtney Albright capture all of the morning's events.

Before driving off and enjoying the rest of the day, Joshua Donahue stops to speak to Dr. Mark Sperling.



During the Senior Drive Around, Jamie Kisting, Lindsey Harrel, Melissa Paniaguas, Jon Wargo, Jonathan Warus, Megan Kors and Heather Casady stop to say their final good byes to Dr. Mark Sperling. "I really like how spirited everyone was," Jamie Kisting said.



Riding with the top down, Jaclene Barsich, Nicole Stompor, Shay Kuzma and Danielle Ovanek cruise around the school.



Jason Plys, Michelle Rodriguez and Stephen Burke complete the final stretch of the Senior Drive Around.



Alec Reeder uses a unique method of transportation during the Senior Drive Around by riding a moped.

As Michael Massengill drives the decorated truck, Bojan Jovanovic, Brad Daniel, Tommy Vechey, Eric Nelson, David Trakovski, Joe Luttnen, Robert Wahlman and Trent Harris harass other drivers with water guns.

Dressed as a gorilla, Andrew Christopher jumps off his truck to give Dr. Mark Sperling one last hug.



and Drive Around



As a good-bye taken, Marques Patrick, Benjamin Graves and A.J. Davis perform their rendition of Bayz II Men's 'Hard to Say Good-Bye' to their graduating classmates.

Stephen Veldman and Earl Currin look through their Senior Magazines during the Senior Breakfast.



Jennifer Mustafa and Jenna Hill

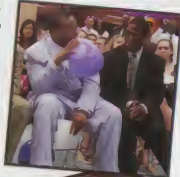


Michael Massengill



Jerry Williams

Randall Turner and Brandon Masley



Senior Class President Ashley Dallas



Singing "The Graduation Song" by Vitamin C, Melissa Wadley, who was voted Class Clown by her classmates, tries to make the Senior Class laugh one last time



Leslie Radgers and Krista Mantalva stop eating their breakfast to take time to look at the Senior Wills.





At the start of the ceremony, Jennifer Mustafa and A.J. Davis sing "Amazing Grace."



Under the direction of Mr. Roger Emig, the choir performs in the middle of the ceremony.



Towards the end of the Baccalaureate, Mr. Alan Branda gives the Benediction.



Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Beverly Barton-Seaver was chosen by the class officers to address the graduating Senior Class.

Mrs. Beverly Barton-Seaver, Dr. Mark Sperling and Rev. Dan Estes lead the participants of the Baccalaureate out of the service.

Khalisa Williams



Rosalinda Sanchez, Jessica Brawn, Katherine Mantalbana, Jeffrey Zweig, Rebecca Ternes, and Randall Johnson listen to the speakers at Living Hope Church.

Sohail Azeem



Baccalaureate



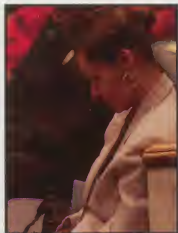
Jesse Koon gives the opening prayer and a blessing to the graduates to begin the ceremony.



Reverend Don Estes speaks to the graduates and their families during the nondenominational service.



Krysta Baron, Gregory Ross, Jason Smith and Christina Braylock



Shella Davis



Dr. Mark Sperling

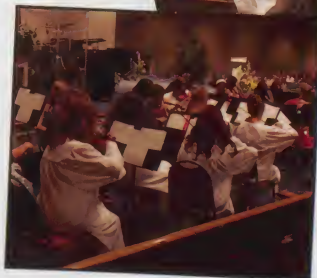
Ricardo Hernandez



Tionna Coleman



Rebecca Ternes, Rondall Johnson and Christina Davis lead the procession into the church and walk down the aisle to find their seats.



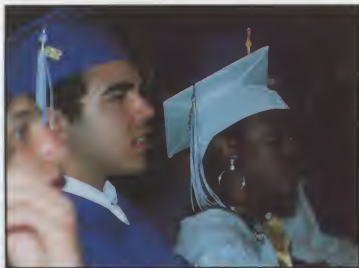
The Merrillville High School Orchestra plays before and after the ceremony.

Graduation



With their last names toward the end of the alphabet, Cory Olivares and Ariel O'Neill look on as their classmates walk across stage.

Following the balloon drop, Pauline Katsouras congratulates Shay Kuzma with a hug.



"If you remember one thing I say, remember this: each and everyone of you are worth as much as you believe you are. Carry your head high and you can do no wrong," said Salutatorian Randall Johnson.

Covering the stage at the Star Plaza, the guest speakers and many school board members stand while the high school orchestra plays "Pomp and Circumstance."

Salutatorian Jonathon Warus plans to attend Purdue University with a major in Chemistry.



Class Treasurer Dominic Angatti presents school board member Mr. Scott Rosenbaum with the class gift, a \$500 donation to the purchase of a new gym floor covering.

Reacting to a funny point in a speech, Brandon Masley laughs with classmate Brandon Jackson and David Marraw.

"Each of our minds is a vault holding every thought, every memory of high school. Every so often, don't be afraid to unlock the memories," said Class President Ashley Dallas.





Paying close attention to the current speaker, Tiara Blokey focuses on the stage



Lining up to receive their diploma jackets, Joseph Plukas, Jason Plys and Jonathon Polak make their way to the stage



Krysta Baran



Dr. Mark Sperling and Ksenija Djukic



Randall Turner

Valedictorian Allison Czubik will attend the University of Southern Indiana to major in Secondary Education, with a concentration in mathematics.



"Take a chance, do what you've always wanted to do, take that shot in the dark at true happiness," said Valedictorian Ryan Miller



After the turning of the tassels and the releasing of balloons, Hilary Marinich and Ricarda Hernandez congratulate each other.

Chosen Keynote Speaker Mr. Curtis Johnson leaves the seniors with some words of wisdom. The English Department Chairman entered MHS the same year as the graduates.



Key Subjects

We shape our minds and our hearts to **break** through normal expectations and come out on **top** in the end.

Learning from personal experiences is a normal part of life, but true knowledge is obtained from the classroom. Teachers, books and peers all teach us valuable information and lessons in life. The key to obtain as much knowledge as possible is to go beyond the regular school hours and put in effort after school. The various academic clubs provide students with extra knowledge in areas that are not always offered at school. This extraordinary knowledge opens new doors for students, which leads to a road of opportunity for the future.



On the verge of laughter, Seniors Randall Johnson and Ayricle Frost listen intently at an Academic Decathlon practice. "Most practices involved Mr. Staley making tons of puns and Mr. Lamberse running around like a rabid rabbit," Johnson said.

Walking for a purpose, Seniors Emily Peters and Elise Szany participate in the National Honor Society sponsored Walkathon in order to raise funds for the Special Needs Department. "I like the fact that we were doing it for something that was close to home," Szany said.





Rushing to put the finishing touches on the French Club float, Senior Jonathan Warus helps other members mount the float on a truck. "We spent many days at Lindsey Harrel's house painting boxes and ply wood and fluffing about a million flowers," Warus said.



With assistance from Coach Jim Johnson, Sophomore Stephanie Pavlish attempts to pole vault. This is the first year that pole vaulting will be scored as a girls track and field event.



Dr. Seuss books, crayons make home here

Bright Crayola Crayon colored pictures are scattered among the walls. A chart of the alphabet and numbers 1 to 10 sticks out among them. Toys and Dr. Seuss books are sprawled out along the floor. Miniature circular tables and chairs are aligned in the middle of the carpet. This is not a typical room that one would expect to see in Merrillville High School. However, this room does exist. It is the childcare center that MHS offers to the public. The day care was established last year but has been wanted here for a long time. Mrs. Maggie Stallings, teacher at MHS, had taken interest in the program since the idea was first created. "The day care was something we wanted here for many years and the room was already designed for it," she said.

The childcare is available for parents who need a safe place for their children to be taken care of while they are at work. The day care opens at

6:30 a.m. and is available up until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday for children who are three to five years of age. Children who are at the day care also attend preschool within the day care from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each day. This year about 20 children attend. The teachers include Mrs. Rhonda Goodrich, Mrs. Kathy Warley and Mrs. Rochelle Melton.

A typical day for the children includes breakfast in the cafeteria shortly after they arrive followed by "circle time," where they learn such things like the days of the week. They then break up into small groups, take a break for snack time and then enjoy a half hour of exercise in the gym. They return for more small group work, lunch, nap time and have time left to play before their parents arrive and pick them up. The children have taken field trips to the apple orchard, the circus and "Monster Inc. on Ice."

Mrs. Goodrich, whose son Cale attends the program, feels that she and the other teachers have a

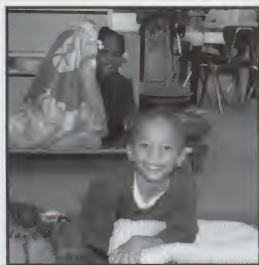
major impact on the children's lives. "This is a time where children are always learning and they are picking up on what you do or say," she noted.

Along with the three teachers, students from Mrs. Stallings' class also help out with the children. The class is three hours long, and they learn about child development and how to work with the children. During second semester, each student has to plan and teach a lesson to the preschool children.

For some students, including Senior Meggie Sobieriski, this class is useful in preparing for their future career. Sobieriski wishes to pursue an education degree. "I feel that this class will prepare me for what I will learn in college," she said.

If the day care's success continues, it will remain on campus. Mrs. Goodrich said, "I like where I am and I love working with the kids each day."

Lindsey Richards



Playful children, Jalen Draper and Alicia Frazier have trouble settling down for a nap. The children routinely take naps every afternoon shortly after lunch.



The class takes a break from learning to play with one another during a recess. This was a time for the children to get exercise during their day.



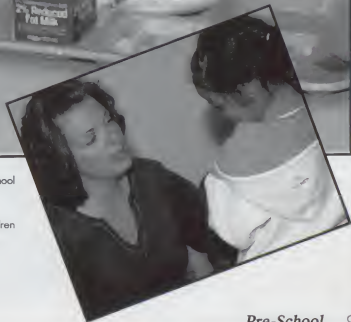
Taking a break from her puzzle, Kylar Daniels is eager to pose for the camera. "Puzzles are good for the children because they deal with critical thinking and analytical skill," Preschool teacher Mrs. Rhonda Goodrich said.

Bouncing up from her sleeping bag, Shekinah Lenair makes a funny face for the camera while Kelly Cavaciu looks on. Members of the class are always eager to be the center of attention.



Eating their cookies before their hamburgers, Caleb Hiller and Ejra Biakara eat their lunches. The school cafeteria provides a nutritional meal for the children two times a day.

Making time for certain students, Mrs. Goodrich helps out Jada Draper. "I enjoy working with the children and being with my son," Mrs. Goodrich said.



Helping Education Reach Occupations

Being a hero isn't only saving lives. It has other meanings, and here at MHS we have had our HERO for the past 16 years. Helping Education Reach Occupation is a program that started in the school year of 1988-1989. Since the beginning of the organization, the class has become more popular among students. The base of the program is to give students the capability to work and gain job training while still in school.

"I like that I get out of school early and I have a job to do during the day. That way I have more time in the afternoon to do homework or just hang out," said MHS child care worker and Senior Krystal Schmitt.

In order to participate in the program, a student must meet the qualifications of being a student of good attendance and manners and maintaining a C average. Balancing work and a job consist of responsibility and dedication for a young adult.

"It's a lot of responsibility but it can all be done," said Peoples Bank employee and Senior Nicholas St. Clair.

Along with a job, the HERO class participates in school and neighborhood activities. Along with Family Career and Community Leaders of America, the class participates in a service community project and runs the blood drive for the Heartland Foundation.

Rico Merced

Adviser: Ms. Carol VanBehren
Front Row: Amanda Butler, Sara Street, Krystal Schmitt, Malorie Brummett; 2nd Row: Rosalinda Sanchez, Krysta Baron, Brittney Dieterle; 3rd Row: Melissa Jackson, Lindsey Solomon, Rebecca Porriah, Joshuo Donahue; Back Row: Troy Sandifer, Kenneth Scott, Nicholas St. Clair, Ion Leska.



Senior Kelly Simonson donates blood during the annual HERO blood drive. Simonson said, "Giving blood is a good gesture because you are saving many lives."

Senior Rosalinda Sanchez stocks videos at her job. Sanchez said, "It is a great opportunity to go to school half day and then work at Hollywood Video. It lets me make some money while still focusing on my studies."



Building Trades

A.M.

Sponsor: Mr. Bob Mackavayak

Front Row: Brandon Fazekas, Antonia Becerra, Javier Alvela; 2nd Row: Anthony Carl, Clayton Henry, Justin Previs, Jonathan Hmuravich; Back Row: Mr. Mackavayak, Justin Gestring, Randal Coleman



P.M.

Sponsor: Mr. Bob Mackavayak

Front Row: Jeffrey Stelzer, Chris Munchenburg; 2nd Row: Aaron Sokolowski, Ryan Fravel, Steve Gowel; Back Row: Clinton Tucker, Joseph Luttinen

Michael Janeczko and Erin Coughlin dance with each other while Daniel Avery dances along side at the Special Needs Dance. Members of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America sponsor this dance every year around Valentine's Day.



Cleaning the machines in the cybex room. Dishing out food in the cafeteria. Counting out newspapers for every student in the school.

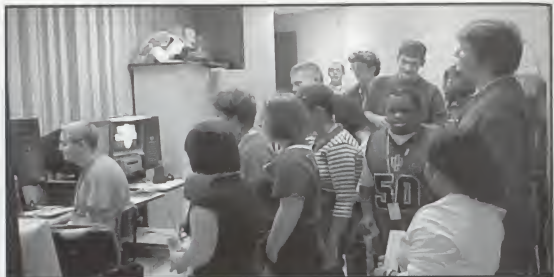
These tasks are performed everyday but sometimes go unnoticed by the overage spectator. The contributions from the Special Education students are essential for the survival of our school.

"They really do produce a lot of work and make a big contribution to our school," Special Education Aid Mrs. Julie Allhouse said. "These are jobs they do doly."

The students are taught job training skills with a vocational class they participate in during second hour everyday.

"It's a progressive job training that expounds working inside the building to outside the building," Special Education Teacher Mrs. Bob

With teacher Mrs. Barb Dlouhy, the Special Education class makes a visit to PNN. The 5th hour PNN class showed the students the editing room and the studio where the morning announcements and the Friday Show are filmed.



Dlouhy said. "It promotes responsibility and independence."

Kohl's temporarily employed the students during the holiday season, giving them the task of bagging merchandise. Their work does not always have monetary benefits though. Every Monday, they volunteer at Harvest Food Bank in Gary.

"They are learning skills, but they are also giving back to the community," Mrs. Dlouhy said. "They feel good about themselves."

The program's goal is to stabilize jobs for the students after they graduate.

"It's a program that we're proud of and are trying to improve," Mrs. Dlouhy said. "We are happy with the students' eagerness to work in the school and out in the community."

Jomie Kistinger



Sharing a moment of fun, Lake Central guest Jessica Wills and Merrillville student Meredith Harris boogie down to the beat. Some students brought guests from other schools to the Valentine's Dance.

Special Education lends a helping hand



Moving to the beat, Meghan Westphal, Edward McCollom Jr. and Ksenijo Djukic look around at others dancing. The annual dance was held in the cafeteria.

Standing in the library, Mrs. Barb Dlouhy, Latrice Brooks, Steven Gaines, Sarah Turner and Dane Sporn listen to Media Center personnel explain the various services offered there. The students toured the library and the rest of the Media Center.



Helping out the cafeteria staff, Aerial Smith opens a box in the storage room. The Special Education students clean dishes and serve food.

With the music playing, TeNita Jamison, Tommy Phifer and Erin Coughlin dance around in the middle of the floor. The dance was for couples and singles.

Students get involved in media

Quill and Scroll

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter

Quill and Scroll is an honorary journalistic society for students working on school publications. Front Row: Jocylene Barsich, Ashley Berger, Joanne Flores, Jamie Kistinger; 2nd Row: Pauline Katsouras, Ashley Dallas, Lindsey Richards, Ayrielle Frost; 3rd Row: Brad Daniel, Jason Kendera; Back Row: Cody Camp, Bojan Jovanovic, Greg Brando.

Students can explore a variety of media, including daily telecast announcements, weekly Friday Shaws, monthly newspapers, and annual yearbooks and literary magazines.

PNN brings the students and faculty the daily announcements and the Friday Shaw, which airs during fourth hour study period. Intermediate video production students produce the daily live newscast of the announcements. "We like to have freshmen that we can build over four years," said Mr. Mark Cieselski, "although we still like seniors." Advanced video students produce school and cable shaws, including the Friday Shaw which features

games, competitions between faculty and students and student-made music videos.

"My favorite thing about PNN is seeing the idea in my head being put together and put on screen," said Senior Benjamin Graves.

The newspaper staff, assisted by students who wanted to write as an extracurricular, changed the format of the monthly publication this year. The new magazine-style format still brought students school news, entertainment and sports.

The Society of Student Authors works to produce a literary magazine at the end of the year.

Brad Daniel



Newspaper

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter

Front Row: Morgan Zellers, Emily Herzog, Corman Pickett; 2nd Row: Jocylene Barsich, Athena Frost, Marissa Walls, Ayrielle Frost; Back Row: Cody Camp, Ryan Miller.

104 **Academics**



Society of Student Authors

Adviser: Ms. Melissa Volkman

Front Row: Geoffrey Sperling, Elena Estes, Strenno Blas, Evelyn Robinson; Back Row: Ms. Volkman, Ben Pankiewicz, James Aeschliman, Kyle Yornell.



Pnn

Sponsor: Mr. Mark Ciesielski

Front Row: Jenni Festa, Carmen Pickett, Benjamin Graves, Cord Newell; 2nd Row: Jeffrey Zweig, Sharise Rogers, Khalsa Williams, Mr. Ciesielski; 3rd Row: Tianna Coleman, Bernard Beard, Vincent Cole, Randall Turner; Back Row: Pavle Jankulaski, Jason Smith, Nathanael Powell, Mark Dally, Jesse Koon.

WMHS

Sponsor: Mr. Mark Ciesielski

Front Row: Jenni Festa, Carmen Pickett, Renee Hatcher, Benjamin Graves, Ashley Dallas; 2nd Row: Marissa Walls, Jeffrey Zweig, Sharise Rogers, Cord Newell, Khalsa Williams, Mr. Ciesielski; 3rd Row: Pavle Jankulaski, Tianna Coleman, Bernard Beard, Mark Dally, Randall Turner; Back Row: Jason Smith, Nathanael Powell, Vincent Cole, Jesse Koon.



Academic Clubs



Academic Decathlon

The state-qualifying Academic Decathlon Team competes in areas such as math, economics, speech, essay, interview, language and literature.

Sponsors: Mr. John Lamberstie and Mr. Scott Staley

Front Row: Jamie Kistinger, Bonnie Payo, Lindsey Harreld; 2nd Row: Randall Johnson, Ayriole Frost, Ryan Miller, Lorne Grimmer; Back Row: Mr. Lamberstie, Cheng-Wei Chiang, Joseph Sobek, Mr. Staley



Science Club / Jets

Jets is a group for students interested in engineering. These students participate in activities such as, building bridges and rockets, and making kaleidoscopes.

Sponsor: Mr. Miles Dunscombe

Mr. Dunscombe, Jasmine Dayton, James Mysliwiec, John Neylon



Marine Biology

The Marine Biology students take a trip to Key Largo, Florida, where the students snorkel, scuba dive and study life under the sea. The students sold many things this year to raise money for their yearly trip, such as Crispy Cream doughnuts, pies and t-shirts.

Sponsor: Mr. Jeff Yellon

Front Row: Ashlee Holland, Jaymine Dave, Katherine Coleman, Corri Stephenson; 2nd Row: Chad Nass, Kendall Maddox, Nickolas Hirjak, John Neylon; Back Row: Mr. Yellon, Donald Whittemore, Scott Stephen, Dyan Dorang



Spell Bowl

The Spell Bowl Team practices twice a week using laptops with spelling programs to drill themselves with tough words. Mrs. Evelyn Steiner, sponsor, works hard making up lists and helping the members practice and improve their skills. The team was ranked third in the area, but unfortunately did not advance to state.

Sponsor: Mrs. Evelyn Steiner

Front Row: Jocelyn Russell, Joia Warner, Johnyce Goosby; 2nd Row: Mrs. Steiner, Cheng-Wei Chiang, Randall Johnson, Ayriole Frost; Back Row: Athena Frost, Ryan Miller; Not Pictured: John Goosby III



National Honor Society

To be eligible for NHS, students must earn a 3.5 GPA, show leadership qualities and provide service to their community by becoming involved in extra curricular activities. They participate in many fund raising events for the Roots and Wings dinner for the top 10 students in the class. NHS members sponsored a walk-a-thon in the spring to raise money for the special needs students.

Sponsor: Mrs. Maggie Stallings

Front Row: Christine Leus, Sulaman Basava, Ashley Poling, Tara Schaab, Jasmine Dayan, Alison Czubik, Jamie Kistinger, Kimberly Deming, Laneshia Thomas; 2nd Row: Samantha Lee, Megan Kars, Jolynn Vargas, Lindsey Richards, Pauline Katsours, Jacqueline Barsch, Monica Cadikavski, Rebecca Lee, Elise Szany, Matthew Calbert; 3rd Row: Rebecca Ternes, Melissa Wadley, Laurie Mitchell, Dominic Angotti, Kathleen Wilson, Jonathan Warus, Randall Johnson, Lindsey Harrelld; 4th Row: Michelle Danko, Sahil Azeem, Clifford Cook, Ryan Miller, Andrew Christopher, John Neylan, Ayriale Frost, Emily Peters, Marshay Jolly; Back Row: Hilary Marnich, Melissa Paniaguas, Neil Osborne, Cecil Collins, Nathan Street, Amber Kaste, Ricardo Hernandez.



Super Bowl

The Super Bowl competition tests students' knowledge in math, science, English, social studies and fine arts.

Sponsors: Mr. Craig Stafford, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner

Front Row: Allison Czubik, Jasmine Dayan, Johnnye Goosby; 2nd Row: Mrs. Steiner, Jaia Warner, Andrea Paultitz, Mr. Stafford; Back Row: Cheng-Wei Chiang, Randall Johnson, Joseph Sobek, Ryan Miller, David Lopez; Not Pictured: John Goosby III.



Science Olympiad

With ten members, the Science Olympiad Team didn't have enough members to go to state, but at the annual Science Olympiad competition, the team received second place in astronomy and third in physics.

Sponsor: Mr. Adam Canard

Front Row: Jaia Warner, Jasmine Dayan, Elena Estes; 2nd Row: Athena Frost, Johnnye Goosby, Elliott Johnson, Mr. Canard; Not pictured: John Goosby III, Edward Jones, Charles Cole, Gregory Ross, Erin Ely.



Quiz Bowl

The region's first place Quiz Bowl Team competed against other school teams every Tuesday. They play four rounds of questioning in a Jeopardy style that challenge the students in many fields such as current events, history, math, literature and sports.

Sponsors: Mr. John Lamberste and Mr. Scott Staley

Front Row: Athena Frost, Ayriale Frost; 2nd Row: Randall Johnson, Ryan Miller, Cheng-Wei Chiang; Back Row: Mr. Lamberste, Joseph Sobek, Elliott Johnson, Mr. Staley

Breaking through the door

We break out onto the stage and become the stars of the stage both at school and in our community

All eyes are on you. The spotlight blinds you as the deafening pounding in your chest grows louder. Musical notes, dance moves or lines to a play run through your head. You take a deep breath and begin. No sweat. It's all in a day's work. Whether it's playing an instrument, singing your heart out or acting in a play, you're the star. Every day, people break through the door and shine like the stars they are. With this passion and talent comes the chance to be recognized and break through the door to the world.



With a flick of their wrists, the Bell Choir rings their bells during the winter choir performance. The Bell Choir was ready for their performance after only four rehearsals with Mr. Roger Emig.

Concentrating on the music, Juniors Alexandra Garritano and Michael Finchum and Senior Ayrlele Frost transform their notes into melody in their performance at "The Revue." "The first night our microphones weren't set up right, but the people who did hear cheered so we were happy," Frost said.





Belting out the lyrics to Kelly Clarkson's "Before Your Love," Senior Jennifer Mustafa takes on a solo for her performance in "The Revue." "I did a solo because it was my last year and I just wanted to do something on my own that would show off my voice to its fullest," Mustafa said.



With fingers flying over the keys, Freshman Neven Haland adds some flavor to the Jazz Band's performance. Unlike regular concert bands, the Jazz Band incorporates different instruments such as the guitar and piano.

MARCHING BAND

Sophomores Donald Whitemore and Aimee Ortega laugh after a performance with Junior Dandel Marler. Whitemore and Marler played together on the drumline, while Ortega earned the position of Drum Major.

Junior Zachary Sawash plays quads on the drumline during the band's performance. Sawash has been in band for three years.



Junior bass drummer Elizabeth Hall and Senior trumpeter Shaun Crittendon watch the director at a Halftime Show this year.

Junior Elena Estes skips around the field during the Marching Band's Halftime Show. Estes played the part of Dorothy for the band's show "The Wizard of Oz."



Elizabeth Hall, Laura Flynn, Kathryn Diehl



Courtney Albright



George Nksch



Alano Fieck



Adam Paling, Elise Szony, Jaral Wall

With a click of the heels, Pirates storm Oz

In an attempt to draw fans to Oz, the Band of Pirates took them down the yellow brick road with regionals at its end.

The judges at competition joined fans at home in their responses to the Pirates' rendition of 'The Wizard of Oz.'

"We always got a really good response from audiences. Tat helped motivate the kids," said Band Director Mr. Bob Meyers.

The genre of the show and the enthusiasm of the members were the keys to their success.

"We were more united as a band and it was more fun," said Senior Emily Peters. "It was fun just to come to practice."

Characters from 'The Wizard of Oz' were incorporated into the show to give a

more realistic feel to the show. Junior Elena Estes played the role of Dorothy, Sophomore Carlton Hoyles was the Scarecrow, Sophomore Zach Sperling was the Tinman, Junior Sneza Nacovski was the Cowardly Lion, and Senior Ashley Jones was the Wicked Witch of the West.

"We had a little tryout where we had to walk in and say 'there's no place like home and click our heels together,'" said Estes. "It was better if we didn't laugh."

The band finished the season with a Division II at regionals, thanks to the hard work of the members and the leadership brought by the seniors.

"The thing that I will miss the most about this year is the Senior Class," said Mr. Meyers. "This is my class. They did a really nice job this year and gave a lot."

Jamie Kistingier



Seniors Ryan Miller, Neil Osborne and Nathan Street play during the show this year. All three have been involved in Marching Band since their freshman year.

Senior Megan Locny plays the vibraphone, a percussion instrument, while the band marches during the show.



Nathan Street



Letticia Belo



Lorne Grimmer



Robert Martin



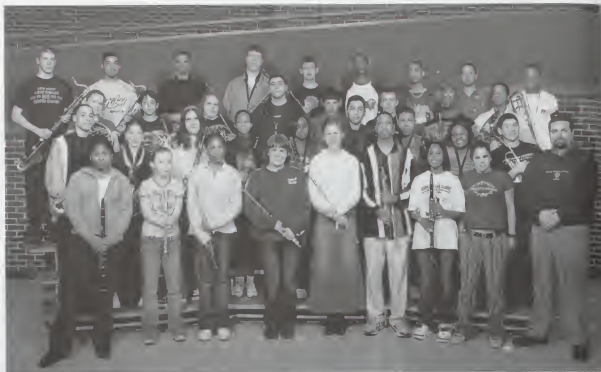
Colleen Modoffert, Mary Hawkins

Bands entertain

Beginning Band

Director: Mr. Bob Myers

Front Row: Briana Ingram, Jamie Sieb, Auriel Mabane, Rebecca VanVleet, Caitlyn Bunch, Daniel Sparks, Ashley Nichols, Valerie Angotti, Mr. Myers; 2nd Row: Comeran Jones, Nikki Bella, Corrie Sullivan, Hannah Day, Charlene Millard, Nicholas Pecencia, Byron Turner II, Ari Meux, Geoffrey Sperling; 3rd Row: Ashlee Halland, Arturo Fuentes, Amanda Powers, Anastasias Kratimenos, Alexander Ponce, James Gedda, John Goosby III, Brian Morrow; Back Row: Scott Stephen, Cedric Collins, Jafer Abdul-Hafiz, Ben Paulkiewicz, George Nlisch, Thaddeus Wikerson, D'Andre Spears, James Hedrick, Neven Halland.



Symphonic Winds

Director: Mr. Scott Maack

Front Row: Elizabeth R. Hall, Jacqueline Bella, Alayna Bella, Dustin Tarr, Dale VanVleet, Jessica Savin, Sarah Wolf, Tiffany Kedziora; 2nd Row: Jacqueline Kish, Federica Vara, Daniel Halley, Megan Lachy, Christopher Takarski, Allana Fleck, Mary Hawkins, Elise Szany; 3rd Row: Zachary Sperling, Perry Herzog, Robert Martin, Khamela Jones, Nicholas Kazanis, Athena Frost, Jarryn Robinson, Matthew Kasperan; Back Row: Carlton Hayles, Emmanuel Turner, Samuel Yacka, Donald Whittemore, Austin Burke, David Lopez, Vincent Pariso, Jacob Zerbe.



Mr. Bob Meyers



Matt Wieneke, Neil Osborne



Ryan Miller



Rebecca Kahler



Donald Whittemore, Valerie Angotti



Perry Herzog

in many ways



Advanced Wind Ensemble

Director: Mr. Bob Myers

Front Row: Kimberly Deming, Ashley Poling, Johnnye Goosby, Jaia Warner, Stephanie Waldron, Rebecca Kohler, Aimee Ortega, DeAundro Johnson, Stacey Veldman; 2nd Row: Mr. Myers, Elise Szonyi, Trenika Williams, Zachary Sowash, Jonathan Cobral, Justin Barron, Matthew Colbert, Adam Poling, Christopher Horst; 3rd Row: Ashley Jones, Ryan Alexander, Raleigh Enslin, Darrel Graham, Nicholas Kozonis, Michael Ashe, Joshua Gonzales, Lorne Grimmer, Emily Peters; Back Row: Kendall Thomas, Ryan Miller, Andrew Caruana, Matthew Wienke, Neil Osborne, Cedric Collins, Michael Bakas, Danol Morlier, Nathan Street, Colin Roberts.



Jazz Band

Director: Mr. Bob Myers

Front Row: Nikki Bello, Valerie Angotti, Jacqueline Bello, Geoffrey Sperling, Stephanie Waldron, Rebecca VanVleet, Dale VanVleet, Byron Turner II; 2nd Row: James Geddo, Amanda Powers, Adam Poling, Zachary Sperling, John Goosby III, Jonathan Cobral, J.T. Groun; 3rd Row: Neven Holland, Kyle Shockey, Matthew Kasperan, Nicholas Pecencia, Daniel Caruana, Daniel Sparks, Mr. Myers; Back Row: George Niksch, Vincent Porto, David Lopez, Ben Ponkiewicz

More Air! Director Scott Maack yells out to the Pep Band. The Pep Band was important this year as opposed to others because of a lack of fan support for the basketball teams. "It was much more difficult this year playing for a team that was having a losing year although it was still fun," Senior Ryan Miller said. The Jazz Bands competed in several jazz festivals, including the South Suburban and Rolling Meadows Jazz Festivals.

Greg Branda



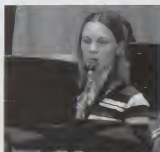
Dale VanVleet



Brian Morrow



Rebecca VanVleet



Kathryn Diehl

Jenny Mustafa, Mather

Katie Kaplar,
Ford Assembly Line Worker



Martheena Kendrick Hart,
Sarah



Ryan Ternes, Little Boy



A.J. Davis,
Caulhouse Walker Jr.



Saying good-bye to his wife before he leaves, Senior Randy Johnson, Father, and Junior Jenny Festa, Mather, share a few final words. This was Johnson's first leading role. Festa has been in chair for three years.

With the help of her back up dancers, Senior Rebecca Langacre, Evelyn Nesbit, performs her routine for adoring fans.



FALL PLAY



Senior Lesley Rogers, playing the part of Sarah, sings a tune to her young son. This was Rogers' first play at Merrillville. Rogers is also a member of the Choral Teens.

Senior Melissa Paniaguas, who played Evelyn Nesbit, dances with fellow Senior Jeffrey Zweig who played Harry Houdini. Paniaguas and Zweig, both VocalTeens, starred in their first lead roles for the musical.





"In general, as well as in the play, many people with different backgrounds have all become American."

Mrs. Beverley Barton Seaver



Seniors Keith Eaton, Booker T. Washington, and Samantha Lao, Emma Goldman, talk about things they can do to get Coalhouse Walker Jr. justice for the mistreatment he was getting from the firemen.

Jessica Graves and Ryan Ternes introduce each other while their parents, Junior Nolan Buck, Tateh, and Senior Jennifer Mustafa, Mather, look on with a watchful eye.



Diversity in action

A week after school started, auditions for the fall musical, "Ragtime," had already begun. "We worked for three months till November preparing for this musical," Senior Jon Wargo stated. He played the part of Father who comes home after a long voyage from the Arctic to find his whole world changed. Wargo also shared this part with Senior Randy Johnson. Many parts were double cast, and some cast members had multiple roles.

"I had several different parts. I was a chorus girl, a bureaucrat, and I was in Henry Ford's assembly line," Freshman Jadyn Baskamp said.

"We had a very large cast," Wargo said, "but it gives me some insight to work with for the future." The cast members also experienced many new things, like working with younger children.

Junior Matt Sopko said, "The musical has given every cast member something to remember."

The diversity of the school helped ensure the success of the musical. Mrs. Seaver said, "Very few high schools have the diversity to have this caliber a cast for this type of play."

The students were not the only ones who connected with the musical, but the whole community could relate as well. "Since Merrillville is the melting pot of the Region, it was an outlet for the community," Wargo said. The play gave a historical view on how people with different backgrounds can eventually become Americans. The carefully woven story travels from Ellis Island to the Jersey shore, where immigrants and people of different races come together through tragedy and heartache.

"This story hits everyone's heart or strikes a chord," stated Sopko.

Nicole Stompou





"This year has been so much fun. My favorite performance so far has been 'The Revue.' We sang and danced to the song, 'Big Spender.' It was such a great memory."

Freshman Lauren Stacks, Varsity Choir Member

Concert Choir

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front Row: Samantha Kaiser, Crystal White, Simone McKinney, Denise Coleman, Elaine Hall, Donno Sylvo, Renee Rogan; 2nd Row: Alexander Groves, Brittney Blue, Kimberly Barnes, Renee Schmellmeyer, Melissa Carmon, Dominique Howard; 3rd Row: David Outlow, Edward Leonard, Kevin Stojkovich, Craig Marshall, Bradley Kurczynski; Back Row: Christopher Smith, Bobby Burton, Joseph Husek, Michael Cameron, Jerome Harris, James Rowe



Varsity Choir

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front Row: Brandy Dieterle, Alexis Geddo, Cassandro Adler, Valerie Grace, Rebecca Hoover, Kimberly Munchenburg, Tamisha Brown, Mary Kate Dixon, Carlo Emmett; 2nd Row: Ashley Elser, Whitney Griggs, Hillary Cooke, Natasa Djukic, Condis Stoddard, Amy Vargas, Andreo Fortier, Jaclyn Boskamp; 3rd Row: Michelle Deming, Cindy Diaz, Vonesso Romas, Arielle Anderson, Nylo Young, Colleen Haylin, Donno Dunn; Back Row: Katherine Naglosky, Ashley Amey, Sora Kmetz, Lauren Stocks, Pamela Johnson, Alyssa Wiley; Not Pictured: Stephanie Matson



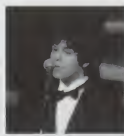
Cindy Diaz



Stephanie Matson



Kimberly Munchenburg



Alex Graves



Simone McKinney

Concert & Varsity Choirs

Movin' On Up

For entering freshmen who have aspirations of singing in the chorus groups, their first spot will either be in Varsity Choir or Concert Choir. Freshman girls make up Varsity Choir, and Concert Choir is composed of freshman boys and upperclassmen. The major difference between Concert Choir and the show choirs is that Concert Choir sings, and the show choirs combine singing and dancing. Freshman Bradley Kurczynski, a member of Concert Choir and a singer for four years believes that a good singer should have a strong tone quality.

Commenting on his class, "It feels like a good group of people with a common goal." He admits to still feeling uncomfortable while performing for large audiences.

As for performances, each of the choirs puts on four concerts a year. This year, their springtime theme is "Only in America." The choirs will be performing any songs that people "only in America" would hear like music from Disney movies and renowned plays. The Varsity and Concert choirs do not typically meet outside of school like the show choirs. Just before concerts

though, they gather for dress rehearsals to polish their program and attempt to set aside the terrors of performing for large groups.

Large audiences are not all these students have to fear. Each of the choirs must perform a solo in front of their classmates each quarter. Freshmen Carla Emmett and Cassandra Adler, both Varsity Choir members and close friends, recall having doubts about the class when Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart brought up the quarter finals. Emmett said, "We were all really intimidated at first, but then Mrs.

Reinhart began cracking jokes." She added, "She made us feel more comfortable."

This year, some of the Varsity Choir girls participated in "The Revue", singing "Big Spender." Adler, a choir singer since 6th grade, said, "It feels like a family since we're all in it for the same reason." She and the other Varsity choir members are excited to be a part of the family. Many of them are anxious to improve and one day be a part of the top show choir, the Vocalteens. Adler added, "It's the beginning of our journey."

Pauline Katsouras



Concert Choir

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front Row: Ashley Everson, Brittany Wesley, Genevieve Wirtz, Lindsey McIlroy, Elizabeth Lashenik, Christina Kratimenas; 2nd Row: Brendan Delaney, Ashish Arshanapalli, Bryan Birmingham, Caleb Douglas, Tristin Lee Stokes; 3rd Row: Brandon Fies, Marcus Patikas, Curtis Wyatt, Anthony Dennis, Lee Talley, Lee Dixon; Back Row: Patrick Geeze, Robert Tate III, Michael McMillan Jr., Joseph Purevich, C. Johnson, Ronald Lawrasky, Christopher Burke, Donald Bhe



Hilary Cooke



Ashish Arshanapalli



Marcus Patikas



Michelle Deming



Crystal White

Concert and Varsity Choirs

Mastering song and dance

Each year, Choir Director Mr. Roger Emig said he "chooses a master work that has stood the test of 200 years or more." This year's piece is "The Messiah," a 70-minute piece. At first, the students were shocked at the length of the piece. Mr. Emig said he loves to challenge his students. He has been teaching for 40 years, and for the past 10 years, he has been able to teach the show choirs, which combine singing and dancing in their performances.

When it comes to dancing, the students practice two days a week for about three hours each day. Their choreographer and former MHS student, Robin Childress, arranges routines to fit the music. Mr. Emig takes her moves and perfects them during class time. He said, "I love to clean up the dancing."

Looking back, Mr. Emig recalls the goals that he and his students set at the beginning of the year. Their first goal was to become better singers. With this comes the second goal of learning how to read the music notes to better interpret the songs. Finally, through much time spent together practicing and sharing their talents, they strive to become a family.

The choirs put on four concerts each year, among other smaller performances around the community. For spring break, the choirs usually go on a trip. This year, they decided to go to Chicago for a weekend to sing, relax, and have fun. Their plans include visiting Navy Pier, watching a couple shows, and shopping downtown.

As for students with aspirations of being in one of the show choirs, Mr. Emig says, "Practice. Practice. Practice."

Pauline Katsouras



Valveteens Director: Mr. Roger Emig

Front Row: Cosey Sieb, Emily Czekala, Samantha Ratley, Courtney Miller; 2nd Row: Poulette Williams, Brittany Jones, Stephanie Pavlish, Megan Lee, Lauren Rees; 3rd Row: Sharon Mercado, Shana Williams, Amber Jimenez, Melanie Mangrum; Back Row: Holly Floyd, Mr. Emig, Alison Conquest.

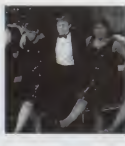


Choralteens Director: Mr. Roger Emig

Front Row: Benjamin Graves, Samantha Yurechko, Amanda Brunn, Joseph Mireles; 2nd Row: Felcito Graves, Donald Tath, Eric Aloia, Isiah Mercado, Margan Gill, Jens Douglas, Jenni Festo; 3rd Row: Daniel Niaman, Rebecca Longacre, Gory Willey, Jennifer Mustofa; Back Row: Jasmine Jackson, Nolan Buck, Nicole Olivares, A.J. Davis, Andrea Rainald, Harry Boskamp.



Megan Kors, Keith Eolan



Heather Cooper, Shoun Wood, Jasmine Jackson



Vincent Cole, Jeffrey Zweig, Matthew Sopko, Rondall Johnson



Brittany Jones



Courtney Miller

Show Choirs

Singing together at the Holiday Concert, Juniors Jens Douglas and Matthew Sopka and Seniors Rebecca Langacre and Samantha Laa entertain the audience. As members of Choralteens, their quartet sang "What Child Is This."



As Senior Jennifer Mustafa and Junior Kyle Lauderdale dance to the beat, Senior A.J. Davis performs his solo rendition of "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Davis, a member of the Vocalteens commented, "I love being able to express myself through my singing."

At the Holiday Concert, Sophomores Lauren Rees, Megan Lee and Junior Shana Williams serenade the crowd. As members of the Velveteens, the girls performed choreographed routines.



Choralteens Director: Mr. Roger Emig

Front Row: Lindsey Trock, Vincent Cole, Jennifer Agaris, Jacqueline Hartford, Christina Davis, Keith Eaton; 2nd Row: Ineke McMillan, Alec Reader, Kimberly Jansen, Samantha Laa, Megan Kars, Carmen Pickett, Jared Perkins, Danielle Ovanek; 3rd Row: Katherine Kaplor, Shaun Wood, Randall Johnson, Rebecca Ternes, Jeffrey Zweig II, Christine Bynum; Back Row: Melissa Paniaguas, Drake Branda, Matthew Sopka, Evangelina Rajo, Kyle Lauderdale, Niki Kraska.



Vocalteens Director: Mr. Roger Emig

Front Row: Christina Davis, Randall Johnson, Megan Kars, Keith Eaton Jr.; 2nd Row: Daniel Nieman, Felicia Graves, Samantha Laa, Vincent Cole; 3rd Row: Rebecca Langacre, Jens Douglas, Rebecca Ternes, Jeffrey Zweig II, Kyle Lauderdale, Jennifer Mustafa; Back Row: Matthew Sopka, Jenni Festa, Mr. Emig, Melissa Paniaguas, A.J. Davis.



"It's been a lot of hard work, but this year I think we're going to have a really good Spring Show because we're experimenting with a lot of different varieties of dance, like salsa and swing."

Senior Melissa Paniaguas, Vocalteen and Choralteen



"Being a musician enhances your ability to multi-task because you learn to do so many things at once. Music helps you work together with people while learning to be responsible for yourself."

Senior Ayriole Frost

Intermediate Orchestra

Director: Mr. John Bradford
 Front Row: Cherelle Dunn, Evelyn Lape,
 Simane Haward, Maha Latif, Melissa
 Rivera, Amy Gurney, Lauren Hallenbeck,
 Gena Davis; 2nd Row: Ben DeLaCruz,
 Jessica Parker, Suzanne Yaungren, Rachael
 San Miguel, Laura Marena, Desiree
 Walker, Ebany Holly, Jacqueline Miller,
 Steven Ruschak; 3rd Row: Mr. John
 Bradford, Angeliqne Gruchmal, Nina
 Lopez, Ashley Wallace, Amber Fleming,
 Irene Tinoco, Krysten Casey, Cara Fejes;
 Back Row: James Aeschliman, Ohn Jay
 Walker, Angie East, Natalie Bryson, Megan
 Sweeney, Shanna Kacher, Matthew
 Kochevar, Mike Churilla



Focusing on her music, Freshman Amy Gurney plays during the Indiana State School Music Association contest in February. Gurney is one of the violin players in the first hour class.

Senior Courtney Albright plays the violin in the Winter Play. Albright has been involved in orchestra since sixth grade.



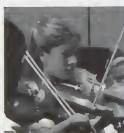
Sumayyah Karim



Mr. John Bradford



Alexandra Garritano



Megan Sweeney, Amy Gurney



John Kedziora



Advanced Orchestra

Director: Mr. John Bradford

Front Row: Mr. John Bradford, Michelle Danka, Sumayyah Karim, Eleni Antan, Kassandra Kluga, Tricia Lakatos, Lisa DelaRosa, Lored Blackwell, 2nd Row: Mike Finchum, Katie Wilson, Jamie Parker, John Kedziora, Courtney Albright, Michael Binder, Gagandeep Kaur, Melissa Velazco, Tam Slivka, Back Row: Randall Aleman, Ashly Janovick, Ayrielle Frost, Joe Sobek, Mark Wieneke, Alexandra Garritano, Elizabeth Danelson, Christine Hanson, Marissa Bankston, Justin Stanley.

Strung up on success

Together, Mr. John Bradford and Merrillville's talented students make up this year's award-winning orchestra.

Mr. Bradford is in his sixth year as director of the orchestra.

"I think Mr. Bradford is a hard-working and dedicated teacher," said Senior Sumayyah Karim.

Advanced students compete for a chair, or position, in the group. When students audition, the ones who play the best earn the better chair. The main goal is to become Concert Master, the leader of the orchestra.

Throughout the years, the orchestras have traveled as far as Florida to compete. This year, they attended the Chicago Symphony and the Indiana State School Music Association Contest (ISSMA). While at ISSMA, the orchestra won several awards including a first place plaque for their performance.

Many of the students have been playing stringed instruments for years. Concert Master Senior Courtney Albright stated, "I think it's important to have music in your life. It relaxes you."

Rico/Merced



Mr. John Lamberse and Senior Justin Grzybowski introduce the show by acting out the rules the audience must follow. Grzybowski said, "I want to pursue a career in acting because I enjoy being on stage and acting crazy."

Senior Benjamin Graves brings back the 1987 hit "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns N' Roses with classmate Travis Hodges. Vocalist Graves stated, "I've been singing ever since I've been able to open my mouth." Hodges has been playing the guitar for a year.



Singing "Can't Live a Day" by Avalon, Junior Heather Cooper awes the audience with her voice. Cooper, who practices by singing at her church, plans to pursue a career in singing after graduation.



Performing the rap, "Othello," Senior Drama Club members Jesse Koon and Jeffery Zweig join Junior Nolan Buck to introduce the next act. Prior to the performances, the thespians critiqued performers to help them for the stage.



Robert Hawkins



Jennifer Mustafa



Khalisa Williams



Danielle Roberts



Rebecca Langacre

Showcasing Talent

The 2004 Revue showcased a variety of acts from singing to dancing. Many performers spent weeks to prepare for their act. Senior Khalsa Williams said, "We started preparing over winter break. Most of our ideas for the show came in December. We had been thinking of moves and outfits for three months." The audience encouraged the uneasy performers with their applause and cheers. This positive reaction boosted the performers' confidence. Senior Benjamin Graves said, "I expected to be nervous, but instead I was very relaxed and calm because of the audience's positive energy."

Some of the performers used this opportunity to gain the experience of performing for an audience. Many of the performers have their eyes set on bigger dreams for the future. They hope to someday perform professionally. Junior Heather Cooper strives to become a Gospel singer. Some were inspired to do the show because their peers had encouraged them to flaunt their talent. Spectator Senior Michael Massengil said, "The dancing was phenomenal." The performers had to go through an audition to be selected for the Revue.

Mrs. Beverley Seaver said, "All of the performers who tried out did a nice job, but I could only pick the top performers." For many of the performers, this was not their first time on stage. Graves has been in numerous variety shows, plays and musicals. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Revue's display of a variety of the students' talents, a mixture of music from past generations and the amusing skit performed by Mr. John Lamberse and Senior Justin Grzybowski.

Dancing to a mix of merengue music, Junior Kristina Pimentel and Sophomores Rebecca Magana and Emily Vela bring students to their feet. This was their first year performing and they plan to be in the Revue next year.

Joanne Flores

Members of The Show Choir dance and sing to "Big Spender." "The first day I was a little nervous, but it was easier the second day," said Freshman Lauren Stacks



Lionel Sanchez



Isaiah Mercado



Kathleen Wilson



Ricarda Hernandez



Christina Davis

Taking a Stab at the Stage

Darkness fades and figures appear elegantly placed on a chessboard. The Capulets and the Montagues slide like chess pieces as the words of the prologue draw the audience into the story. The lights fade away and the tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet* begins.

"We do a Shakespeare rotation every three years and this was our year," Director Mrs. Beverley Barton Seaver said. "It is a part of the freshman curriculum and we wanted to reinforce it."

Understanding the words and meaning of the Elizabethan English was an obstacle, but thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Seaver and Mr. Raymond Palasz, the cast had an easier time comprehending and remembering their lines.

"For this part, learning my lines and learning what they meant was my focus," Junior Amber Jimenez said. "In order to be comical, I had to understand what I was saying."

Seniors Benjamin Graves (Romeo) and Leslie Rodgers (Juliet) said they tried different methods to remember the many lines of the two major roles. Graves recorded his lines on a

CD and listened to it every night. Rodgers used the musical stylings of her sister to aid her memory.

"I tried to think of my lines as a song because it is easier to remember the lyrics, and my sister would try to sing them to me," Rodgers said.

Besides feeling the pressure of learning their lines, some cast members felt the weight of other things, such as their costumes. Jimenez had to battle the 45 pound weight of her huge costume.

"My costume was horrendous," Jimenez said. "It was made out of upholstery and it literally matched the pattern of Mrs. Seaver's couch. I had a headpiece that did not let any air in, so my hair would get all frizzy because all I did was sweat."

Although Mrs. Seaver wished they could have had more time on the stage, the cast did a fabulous job in her eyes.

"It was a lot of fun, and I just wish more people would have come and seen it," Graves said.

Jamie Kistingner



Somson (Isaiah Mercador) practices his fighting skills while Gregory (Derek Midkiff) watches. Although their roles in the play were minor, they still rehearsed the scene many times to perfect it.

The members of the choir (Jenni Festo and Julianne Fabion) begin the play by introducing the plot to the audience. They also had other minor roles in the play.



Blake Sohocki



Alexander Graves



Bryan Birmingham



Kyle Lauderdale



Michael Finchum



Juliet (Leslie Rodgers) hesitates to drink out of the vile that contains a potion that will temporarily keep her asleep. She does this so her family will think that she is dead so she can run away with Romeo.

Romeo (Benjamin Graves) pleads to the apothecary (Robert Hopkins) to give him a vile of poison to kill himself. "I enjoy acting because I like portraying difficult expressions of emotions," stated Graves.



Lady Capulet (Courtney Albright) and the nurse (Amber Jimenez) try to persuade Juliet to marry Prince Paris. Albright has been in many other plays and was voted "Best Actress" by her senior classmates.

A member of the town (Bryan Birmingham) listens as Princess Escala (Blana Mizimakaskil) tells the people of Verona they all need to get along with one another.



Daniel Nieman



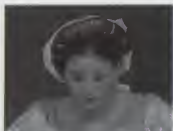
Felicia Graves



Michael Cameron



Joseph Mireles



Courtney Albright

Bryon Ruder



Anna Ziemiak



Kimberly Verduzco



Justin Floyd



Brandon Miller



Carefully, Sophomore Tommy Goboyon attempts to create a visually appealing layout. "I took photography because it's a fun class that allows you to be creative," Goboyon said.

Sharing opinions, Senior Anna Ziemiak and Junior Jessico Argue critique another student's work. Ziemiak will continue taking photography next year at Columbia College in Chicago.



ARTS

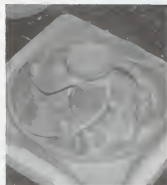


Working with her hands, Junior Nicole Meyer prepares to smooth out her candle holder. Meyer said she will take drawing and painting next year.

Carefully pouring the developer out of the container, Sophomore Alysse Fultz prepares to develop and print her pictures. This was Fultz's second year in photography; however, she will not take the class next year because of her full schedule.



Christina Labodinski



John Kasper



Princess Madison



Matthew Crane



Painting his finished submarine, Sophomore Gerardo Ortiz is determined to finish his project. Ortiz took ceramics for a change from his usual academic classes.

Using the flat end of a knife to help mold his work, Junior Rickie Crowley sculpts a sumo wrestler. "I like ceramics because it allows me to work with my hands," said Crowley.



Students express creativity with art

Students express their creativity through various art forms, such as photography, ceramics, design or basic drawing and painting. The school offers different levels of each, ranging from basic to advanced. Mrs. Janet Anderson teaches four semesters of photography, art fundamentals, visual communications, drawing and painting. Mr. Terry Pratt's focus was on ceramics this year.

Many students take art classes that could prepare them for future careers. Visual Communications is a design class that may spark a student's interest in art. "Although I'm not going to an art school, I plan to take more design classes in college. I would love to work with interior design," said Senior Ashley Berger.

Ceramic classes are usually taken as an elective in the freshman or sophomore year of high school.

"I took ceramics my freshman year just by chance, and ended up liking it," stated Junior Matt Bigelow. There are eight semesters available in ceramics and Bigelow has taken them all. "I someday plan to own an art studio or teach ceramics classes," Bigelow said. Students find that much of their interest and inspiration come from their teacher. "Mr. Pratt is always pushing us to do good and work our hardest," explained Bigelow.

"The only way for students to bring out their artistic talent is to practice," said Mr. Pratt. "It's that simple."

Ashley Dallas



Peeking from behind the door

We go into our community and try to make a difference, and in turn, the community gives back to us.

Making a difference in our community.

Teaching people how to accept differences.

Learning lessons that help you in life.

Various clubs flood our school, each with

their own purpose and dedications. Certain

people in certain clubs stand out from the

crowd and make a difference. They peek

from behind the door by helping others and

helping each other. We acquire personal

satisfaction and skills we need to peek from

behind the door and go for the gold.



With generosity in their hearts, Junior Erin Ely and Senior Renee Hatcher take time out of their Christmas Break to take children to Navy Pier's Winter Wanderfest. Two STAND members were assigned to each child and spent the day with them in Chicago.

Taking a break from their hard work, Senior Gregory Ross pushes Senior Nicole Stampor on a dolly. "Greg and I were goofing off, and I asked him to push me around," Stampor said.





Participating in a great learning experience, Senior Gregory Brando travelled to Hammond to participate in a mock trial for his AP Government class. Brando said, 'Our case had to do with a girl who hit a jogger, and we had to decide whether she was behind the wheel or if it was someone else.'



With an umbrella for protection, Senior Heidi Hammond stands on the field awaiting the announcement of Homecoming Queen. 'It was funny to see all the girls getting mad when their hair got wet,' Hammond said.

Rain

NO MATCH

For School Spirit

Not only is the Homecoming Dance one of the biggest events of the year, but also the entire Homecoming week is one of the most celebrated traditions in history. From choosing the week's theme to planning and decorating for the dance, the Student Government members took control of all the festivities. Although most activities are the same year to year, there were some exciting additions in 2003. One added extra was a car smash held before the game Friday night. The Student Government purchased an old car from a junkyard and charged \$1 for three hits with a sledgehammer. Due to the rain, the student turnout was not that great, although the event went on as planned.

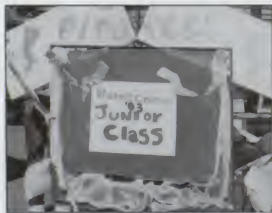
"Spirit Week" started off with different ways to show Pirate Pride. Monday was Hat Day, followed by College Apparel Day on Tuesday. Wednesday was Crazy Hair Day and Thursday was Class Color Day, with each grade level assigned a different color to wear. Friday was the time to show off purple and white. Thursday evening at 5 p.m., the Homecoming Parade departed from Pierce Middle School. Starting the parade was the Marching Band, followed by each of the four classes and several clubs showing off their floats to be judged.

Following the parade was the annual Goofy Games held in back of the high school. The Games have the most attendance of all the activities, other than the game. The activities included Giant Twister, Water Balloon Launch, Panty Hose Race, Pie Eating Contest and Pudding Slide. Friday night was the Homecoming game against the LaPorte Slicers. The final score was 14-0 in favor of the Slicers. Before the game, Senior Class President Ashley Dallas announced this year's Mr. Football, Trent Harris. During halftime, the members of the Senior Class learned they had the most points in the Goofy Games and scored the highest on their float.

Student Government member Greg Ross crowned the Homecoming Queen, Tianna Coleman. "I was really excited and joyous when I heard my name, but I kind of expected to win," Coleman stated. The final Homecoming activity was the dance Saturday night in the Hall of Flags. Couples, singles and groups of friends attended.

Student Government sponsor Reasellen Kozel said, "This year was a lot of fun and took hard work to pull off, but we had so much more participation than in past years, which made it so great!"

Ashley Dallas



Preparing to represent their class, the Juniors get started for the annual float decorating contest. Even though the class worked hard, they fell short of a victory in the contest.



Taking in a faceful of pie, Senior Pauline Katsouras becomes a victim of leftover pie throwing by a group of seniors led by Shawn O'Keefe. "At first, I was shocked by the ooey-goey surprise, but then I retaliated against Shawn and his crew," Katsouras said.





Senior Tiana Coleman smiles as she is crowned Homecoming Queen. Coleman has been on several courts, but came out an tap for football Homecoming.



Seniors Carol Newell, Lindsey Richards, Heidi Hammond, Melissa Paniaguas and Tiana Coleman make up the Homecoming Court. All the girls gathered together under an umbrella to hide from the rain.



Senior Trent Harris draws back for a high launch in the water ballon competition. Surrounded by his fellow teammates and friends, Harris released the waterballon to propel the Senior Class to victory in the annual Goofy Games.



Setting up for a play, the MHS offensive team faces LaPorte during the Homecoming game. The 14-0 loss to the Slicers and the rain did little to dampen Homecoming spirits.



"I feel that Football Homecoming Week was a great success and a whole lot of fun. Everybody in Student Government worked together in order to have a great week."

Senior Ashley Dallas

Five members from the Senior Class try to keep together in the pantyhose race during the Goofy Games. The strategy of the seniors lead their team to a victory

In the traditional spotlight dance, Senior Homecoming Queen Tiana Coleman and Mr. Football Trent Harris take a moment to bask in the glory of their titles. Since the school had no Homecoming King, Mr. Football is considered royalty.

During a slow song on the dance floor, National Honor Society President Senior Sahaf Azeem gets close to his date, Junior Jaymini Dave. "Although we weren't dating, we are close friends, so we had fun anyway," Azeem said.



Sophomore Raymond Tinoco and freshman Nina Lopez prepare to have their photographs taken early, before any dancing begins. Dancing can cause messed up hair and makeup, so getting the pictures out of the way is a good idea.

Junior John Kedziora, Senior Michelle Donka, Freshman Justin Koon and Senior Melissa Jackson laugh and talk to each other while waiting in the photo line. Although the dance floor is generally the main attraction, students also enjoy hanging out with friends.



"I was busy working on the big picture of Homecoming, and it really was nice to wind down the week with the dance."

Student Government President
Senior Gregory Ross



MEMORIES made in HEAVEN

After a hectic five days of homecoming festivities, "Sarah" reminisced on the exciting week. She wore special clothes on each of the dress-up days, walked in the parade, played in the Goofy Games, and she cheered for the Pirates during Friday night's football game. The loss upset her a bit, but her focus was now on Saturday night's Homecoming Dance, which she greatly anticipated. Exhausted from the week, she quickly slipped into a peaceful slumber. In no time, she found herself in a lovely place, like a paradise, with all her friends singing merrily and dancing the night away. The DJ played the best songs. She and her pals were having such a wonderful night. She felt like she was on "cloud nine..." BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Her alarm blared at 10 a.m. She woke up with a smile and feelings of contentment from the night before, when she realized it was all a dream. How she hoped the dance would be just like her reverie!

Over 200 couples attended this year's Homecoming Dance and their night was as blissful as "Sarah's" dream. The energy from the entire week stayed steady until the final event of the traditional celebration. The dance, sponsored by Student Government, was held in the Hall of Flags, September 27, from 7 to 11 p.m. The theme was "Heaven on Earth," and the silver, cream and lavender colors complimented the heavenly atmosphere according to a few of the students who attended the event. Set-up for the dance took over six hours, and about 15 people helped out throughout the day. Senior Greg Ross, President of Student Government, commented that the turnout was pretty good, but the dance floor was crowded. Ross said, "There was a lot of dancing, but a few people were

always going to the lounge room to take a breather, grab a snack, and converse with friends." It is a common belief that the result of the game on Friday night affects the mood of the dance. We lost this year but Ross said, "People just came to have fun. It didn't really matter if we won or lost."

Homecoming Queen Tionna Coleman and Mr. Football Trent Harris, both seniors, were crowned the night before at the football game. They shared a couple dances together. Senior Sohail Azeem recollected the night, "The dancing was great, especially the sweet moves of A.J. Davis and Greg Ross."

After four eventful hours of dancing, taking pictures and sharing memories with friends, the students were ready for the post-Homecoming celebrations. Upon leaving the dance, guests received a mouse pad with a spot for a picture to be placed. After the dance, many of the students went out to eat or hung out at someone's house. Senior Sohail Azeem said he decided to leave the dance a little early. "My date and I went to eat at the Grand Lux Café in Downtown Chicago," he said.

Dancegoers shared many memories of this night. Senior Michelle Danko recalled, "My favorite part of the dance was when my boyfriend came out on the dance floor just for me. He can't really dance but he did it just to make me happy." For her fourth homecoming, she said this year was definitely her best.

Azeem agreed with Danko. "It was definitely a night to remember."

Pauline Katsuros

Waiting to take their dance pictures, Senior Marko Djukic and Sophomore Shannon Frey listen to directions from Dave Evans, a Glosios assistant. Formal pictures from dances, a traditional memento, help students unlock memories long after the dance is over.

Gettin' down on the dance floor, Juniors Kyle Foree and Jessica Daniels do not care what is going on around them. Many students are too young to get into dance clubs, so Homecoming is very exciting for them.

Anxiety turned into joy as Freshman Brienne Woodward hears her name being announced. Her peers voted Woodward as the Freshman Homecoming Princess.



Prior to the big game January 9 Key Club members sponsored their first Spirit Week despite the change of date. Banners and posters decorated the gym, cafeteria and halls. This year included Celebrity Look-alike, Tiny Toon Tuesday, Wacky Tacky Wednesday, Throwback Thursday and the customary Purple and White on Friday. "We had fun and excitement preparing and decorating," said Senior Key Club President Melissa Wadley.

In a change from the past years, each grade crowned a Homecoming Princess. Underclassmen winners were Freshman Brienne Woodward and Sophomore Callie Lucas. Kristy Polster represented the Junior class. The seniors nominated five girls to compete for queen. Tianna Coleman, Heidi Hammond, Carol Newell, Lindsey Richards and April Samuels battled for the 2004 Homecoming Queen.

The four finalists in the Ovid and Brandon Project danced and Mr. Mark Ciesielski announced the winner. The students voted Senior Travis Hodges as Merrillville's best dancer. Hodges showed his moves

The smile on the face of Junior Kristy Polster shows her excitement for being named as the Junior Homecoming Princess. Polster had to hurry out of her cheerleading uniform and into her dress for the halftime ceremony.

Sophomore Callie Lucas receives her crown and cracks a smile when she hears her name as Sophomore Homecoming Princess. Members of Key Club crowned the freshman and sophomore princesses.



across the court with classmate AJ Davis. "I was terrified to go out there. Once it started it was a great experience, and it was a great part of my senior year," commented Hodges.

The Dance Team performed during halftime, while the senior girls waited to walk across the court.

As the excitement rose Senior Class President Ashley Dallas announced each nominee. Richards stated, "I wasn't concentrating on the call of my name. I was focused on not falling." In the end, Lucas crowned Coleman for the second time this year. "I was very shocked because I expected someone other than me or Carol to win since we won at previous events," said Coleman. Newell was 2003 Prom Queen and Coleman was Football Homecoming Queen.

Finally, what we all were waiting for, the Varsity Cheerleaders escorted a group of senior boys dressed in tight shirts and shorts for the Senior Hot Legs contest. Girls screamed and yelled for their favorite. This year Senior Hot Legs Brandon Mosley captured the crowd's attention. Senior Greg Brando said, "I was excited and had a lot of fun."

Ashley Berger

One MAGICAL Night





"The fans' loud cheers gets me more motivated and encourages me to play my best."

Junior Jimmy Reitz



Looking for an outlet pass Junior Tristan Dawson guards the ball from a Portage player. Dawson and the Bucs beat the Indians 61-47.

Squaring off against one another in a "dance off" are Seniors A.J. Davis and Travis Hodges. Students voted Hodges as the winner of PNN's Ovid and Brandon Project.



Excitement and joy fill the gymnasium prior to the start of the game Freshmen Ashley Amey and Ashley Woods and the rest of the Pom Pans pumped up the crowd while the boys' Basketball Team waited in the locker room.

As Senior Tiana Coleman receives her crown, Senior Carol Newell awaits to congratulate her while Sophomore Callie Lucas embraces her. Newell said, "I was really excited for her because we are really good friends." Coleman was named queen for both basketball and football Homecoming.

Cupid STRIKES Again

Cupid struck again as the freshmen and sophomores had their Valentine's Day Dance. The dance allowed couples, singles and groups of friends to enjoy the night of fun and romance.

Much like the previous year, the turnout of couples and singles helped to make the dance successful.

Members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and their sponsor, Mrs. Carol VonBehren, decorated the cafeteria for the two classes to have a romantic and fun dance. Ginas Photographers were there to capture the memories of the dance for the students.

Like many dances, FCCLA members had a nomination process to select a freshman and a sophomore queen. The names of all the girls who at-

tended the dance were recorded and the list was distributed to each guest. The guests then voted by class to choose the queens. Sophomore Cvetla Lazevski and Freshman Lauren Stacks were named queens of the dance.

"Being nominated wasn't a big deal to me," said Lazevski, "but I was glad I won!"

Toward the end of the night, the queens were announced. For the Freshman Class, a three-way tie occurred, and the names were drawn out of a hat to select

the queen.

"I didn't know what the names were for when we got there," said Freshman queen Lauren Stacks.

Rico Merced

"Being nominated wasn't a big deal to me, but I was glad I won!"

Cvetla Lazevski



Holding each other in their arms, Sophomores Gary Wallace and Marissa Duncan dance a slow dance together. A total of 35 couples attended the dance.



Taking a break from the dance floor, Sophomore Marisol Tirado and Freshman Jessica Alvarez spend time admiring the candles. "The candles went with the Valentine love theme," said Senior FCCLA member Melissa Wadley.

Enjoying time with their friends, Sophomore Ray Tinoco and Freshmen Rigoberto Zambrana, Kacey Loudermilk, Lauren Stacks and Jash Rasapovich dance as a group. There were many groups of friends attending the dance in addition to the couples.





With excitement plastered on her face, Sophomore Cvetla Lazevski reacts as Senior FCCLA member Dominic Angatti crowns her Sophomore Princess. "I heard a scream from across the room and saw someone running towards me," Angatti said. "I didn't know how to crown her, but she wanted me to, so I did."



Before entering the dance, Sophomores Cvetla Lazevski, Mallory Cuevas and Tiffany Taylor wait in line to pay for pictures. Students entered the library in order to get professional pictures taken by Gialas.



Freshman Princess Lauren Stacks dances with her date Josh Raspovich after she is crowned. Stacks was the winner of a three-way tie that existed among the freshman nominees.

At arms length apart, Senior FCCLA member Melissa Wadley dances with Freshman Geoffrey Sperling. "I didn't have a date, and Geoff looked so cute, I just had to dance with him," Wadley said.



"The most fun part of setting up was seeing the FCCLA students decorating, using their creativity. It always looks different, and every year they try to top the decorations from the year before. I like creativity."

FCCLA Sponsor Ms. Carol VonBehren

The royalty of the Prom, Juniors Amber Goodman and Daniel Burkus dance their first dance as King and Queen. "This was one of the most memorable moments of my life," said Goodman.

Answering questions for MTV, Senior Michael Messengill and Junior Sabrina Carlisle wait for the Grand March to start. Messengill, one of the ten boys picked for the "Prom Date" stated, "The first thing I thought when I saw myself on TV was 'Wow, I'm weird.'"



Seniors Benjamin Groves and Trent Harris introduce hip-hop artist Cassidy. "I would never have thought that I would get this opportunity. I will never forget this moment," stated Harris. Adding to the excitement of the night, hip-hop artist Cassidy and singer Mashonda performed their new single "Get Na Better" for the students. This was one of the twists that MTV kept secret until prom night.

Waiting for the king and queen to be announced, the Prom Court stands on stage in front of the promgoers. Students voted Juniors Daniel Burkus and Amber Goodman 2004 Prom King and Queen. Pictured with them are Juniors Kristen Neese, Dennis Howell, Kristi Powlowski, Michael Neal and James Reitz.



One Breath-taking PROM



From PNN to MTV students enjoyed a night among the stars. Prom was in full swing at the Grand March where students were filled with joy and excitement.

Prom Court nominees were Juniors Daniel Burkus, Amber Goodman, Dennis Howell, Michael Neal, Kristen Neese, Kristi Pawlowski, Kristy Polster and James Reitz. "I was excited when I found out I was nominated and wanted to find out the winner," said Neese. Burkus and Goodman were crowned Prom King and Queen.

"I was surprised it was me with all the great competition," said Burkus.

Neese commented, "I was glad for whoever won because they were all my friends."

MTV's "Prom Date" finale was presented at the Grand March, where students learned whether Seniors Benjamin Graves, Trent Harris or Shawn O'Keefe would escort prom princess Senior Carol Newell. "I had an uneasiness in my stomach because I wanted to win," said Harris.

Newell said she was very satisfied with her date. "I knew Shawn and I would have a blast and prom could not have gotten any better."



Dancing to the beat of the music, Seniors Edward Vega and Sandra Gjucinova soak up the excitement of prom. Seniors try to make the best of their prom because it is the last high school dance they will ever attend.

Arm in arm, "Prom Date" Seniors Carol Newell and Shawn O'Keefe strut their stuff during the Grand March. The Senior Class acted as matchmaker by picking Newell's date for the dance.

Or could it? Limos, party buses, Excursions and Navigators carried prom goers to Avalon Manor in Hobart, where their "Night in Paradise" began.

Graves and Harris presented hip-hop artist Cassidy halfway through prom. MTV used students with their energy to record Cassidy's new video "Get No Better" featuring Mashonda.

Midway through the dance, the prom court danced to the theme song "Take my Breath Away," a rendition by Jessica Simpson.

"Being only a sophomore and going to prom the year MTV and Cassidy came was unbelievable," said Tammy Gaboyan.

Did all the focus on MTV take away the traditions of prom? "MTV ruined my prom. Things felt staged and we spent half of the time like we were in a concert," said Senior Isaac Mercado.

Senior Ashley Gidley disagreed, "This was a once in a lifetime experience. Who else can say MTV came to their prom?"

How will Prom 2004 be topped next year? Prom Sponsor Mrs. Michelle Sulch commented, "I will leave that up to next year's sponsors. Students have to realize this was a once in a lifetime experience."

Ashley Berger



Senior Travis Hodges and Junior Jennifer Highsmith slow dance to the Prom's theme song, "Take my Breathe Away" by Jessica Simpson. Prom is a night for fun and dancing for both friends and couples.

Trooped between two faculty players, Senior Jashuo Kaselke goes up for a shot against Mr. Wade Boise. During the game, Kaselke had numerous key plays that helped the Senior Team keep their loss to five points.



Seniors and faculty alike look forward to the Student-Faculty Basketball Game. The trash talking increased as both teams formed. Bojan Jovanovic, Morshay Jolly, Brad Daniel and Ricardo Hernandez were the coaches for the students. The students had one practice on the day before the game for two hours to work on lay-ups, defense and teamwork. Jovanovic said that their strategy was to move and control the ball and to stop Mr. Zac Wells.

Some faculty team members decided to shoot a round during their lunch hours. Girls' basketball Coach Bob

Maicher, selected as the coach to lead the teachers, said he wanted to use the depth of his team to win. Everyone had their opinions of who they thought would win, but both teams were confident that they would secure a victory. Mr. Wells, a key player for the teachers stated, "I was totally confi-

Driving post Mr. Tony Kinczak, Senior Jason Kendero takes the ball to the basket. Kendero said, "I think it was a good loss. We only lost by five points, but Mr. Bortolomeo's unbelievably lucky three-pointer at the end killed us."

On the sidelines, Senior cheerleaders Pauline Katsuros, Melissa Wadley, Christina Davis and Tara Schoob cheer on the Senior Team. "Cheering was an exciting experience. My enthusiasm was very motivating for our team," said Wadley.



dent that we would win because we are just superior athletes."

As students filed into the main gym, the referees polished their whistles, the players practiced their lay-ups and the cheerleaders perfected their toe-touches. In a game of 2, 20-minute halves, Mr. Wells scored the first shot of the game. The students fought back but the teachers were in the lead the entire game. Although the students neared the score of the faculty, in the end they still lost, 28-23.

The seniors were disappointed about the loss. Senior Greg Branda said, "I don't think that the teachers are better than us. They are just taller and therefore had an advantage."

The teachers had a different opinion. Mr. Wells said, "We smoked the students because, again, we're just superior athletes."

Lindsey Richards



Each year, the seniors hope for a victory in . . .

One Exciting GAME



"We were like, 'Wow, he looks like he's got a lot of talent.' I was one of the first to believe that he was. He's always trying to be the best." —
 Mr. Cecil Collins

Senior, Michael Massengill



"Playing in the game was quite an experience. Although we didn't win, I think that everybody had a good time. It was one of the times that I got a strong sense of school spirit, especially with the Senior Class," Senior Renee Hatcher said. As she finds an open player on the court, Hatcher passes the ball to a teammate as a faculty defender attempts to stop her.

Prior to the game, Senior Coaches Marsha Jolly, Ricardo Hernandez, Bajan Jovanovic and Brad Daniel discuss their team's game plan. Daniel said, "I gave a good pre-game speech. It wasn't great, but it got our team ready to play."



During half time, Seniors A.J. Davis, Tianna Coleman and Christina Davis entertained the crowd. The group danced to a hip-hop medley that they rehearsed for four hours the day before the game.

As the crowd looks on, Senior Cecil Collins tries to deflect Mr. James Siman's pass. "We had good competition, but if we would have had more practice, we would've dominated the teachers," Collins said.



Dramatic Society

"Ragtime," "The Laramie Project" and "Romeo and Juliet" helped bring 60 different Dramatic Society members together as 1 Members traveled to The University of Indianapolis March 12 to perform the "Laramie Project" and earned first place. Many other awards were given to students for their performance. Junior Nikki Jimenez received Best Supporting Actress, while Seniors A.J. Davis and Leslie Rodgers were awarded Best Group Musical from the play "Ragtime." Dramatic Society meets every other Monday to promote a positive activity to do after school. Meeting after school gives students the opportunity to improve their acting skills.

Sponsor: Mrs. Beverley Seaver

Front Row: Mrs. Seaver, Amanda Degard, Jonathan Warus, Jenni Festa, Jon Wargo, Jesse Koon, Jeffrey Zweig; 2nd Row: Jennifer Mustafa, Robert Hopkins, Samantha Laa, Ashley Elser, Sara Furman, Megan Lee, Leslie Rodgers, Courtney Albright, Felicia Graves; 3rd Row: Kathleen Wilson, Kymalee Gresh, Khalisa Williams, Jacyln Baskamp, Amber Jimenez, Sharise Rogers, Niki Kraska, Jack Neylon, Biljana Mizmakaski; Back Row: Brandon Fies, Jessica Argue, Nicole Meyer, Julianne Fabian, Tiffany Begala, Maeglin Farmer, Alexandra Garritano, Michael Finchum, A.J. Davis; Not pictured: Geoffrey Sperling

Art Club

Every Tuesday, Sponsors Mrs. Janet Anderson and Mr. Terry Pratt and 7 members of the Art Club met to create a 10-ft. badge for the police convention in Munster. The Art Club also designed seasonal panels for Fieles Elementary School. The purpose of Art Club is to work on projects outside of the classroom and give students extra help. The Art Club "hopes to promote art outside the classroom," said Mrs. Anderson.

Sponsors: Mrs. Janet Anderson, Mr. Terry Pratt

Front Row: Nicole Meyer, Joalana Hemphill; Back Row: Jack Neylon, Julianne Fabian
Not Pictured: Beno Estes, Nicole Stompor



Class Officers

Class Of '07



Sponsors: Mr. Randy Harka, Mr. Anthony Hafer

Front Row: President Tim Reddick, Vice-President Nikki Bella, Treasurer Ashlee Holland;
Back Row: Secretary Mary Kate Dixon, Mr. Harka

Class Of '06



Sponsors: Ms. Courtney Hardin, Mrs. Kathy Peters

Vice-President Jessica Francis, President Megan Lee, Treasurer Niki Kraska

Student Government

The Student Government organization is the sponsor for many activities throughout the school year. This year, the newest and one of their most important activities was the 8th grade Leadership Workshop. "Through this, we hope to get the younger students involved earlier," stated student government sponsor Mrs. Rosellen Kozel. Another new event is the Stress Free Week, which promoted activities that create a relaxing and stress free environment.

Sponsor: Mrs. Rosellen Kozel, Mr. Randy Horka

Front Row: Jamie Sieb, Nikki Bella, Jasmine Dayton, Mary Kate Dixon, Simone Howard, Geoffrey Sperling, Jaclyn George, Cheryl Munchenburg; 2nd Row: Carmen Pickett, Krystle Gill, Cynthia Diaz, Michelle Deming, Adam Paling, Kimberly Vanek, Mrs. Kozel; 3rd Row: Megan Lee, Dominic Angotti, Donna Dunn, Ashish Arshanapalli, Ashlee Holland, Kelly Simanson, Jacqueline Miller, Erin Knight; Back Row: Niki Kraska, Christopher Smith, Gregory Ross, Tim Reddick, Patrick Laorden, Steven Vanek, Mr. Horka



Student Government Officers

Front Row: Steven Vanek, Kathryn Diehl, Kimberly Vanek;
Back Row: Gregory Ross, Mrs. Kozel



Class Of '05



Sponsors: Mrs. Janelle Bowen, Mr. James Stamper
President Erin Knight

Class Of '04



Sponsors: Mrs. Amber Baron, Mrs. Debra Monix, Mrs. Debbie Klippel
Treasurer Dominic Angotti, President Ashley Dallas, Vice-President Sahal Azeem, Secretary Jaclyn George

Foreign Language Clubs

German Club



Sponsor: Mr. Al Stoner

Front Row: Roy Bishop, Genevieve Wirtz; Back Row: Scott Stephen, Robert Lucente, Robert Martin, Mr. Stoner

Spanish Club



Sponsor: Mrs. Mary Ann Bertram

Front Row: Victoria Blanco, Tricio Lakatos, Claudio Tirado, Mrs. Bertram; 2nd Row: Trenika Williams, Brian Nay, Beverly Haro; Back Row: Ronald Pedroza, Marisol Tirado, Matt Huber; Not pictured: Steven Vaneek

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America



Sponsor: Mrs. Carol VanBehren

The FCCLA had many projects and sponsored many events this year such as the Trick or Treat for canned goods, Freshman-Sophomore Dance and Special Needs Dance. Also, FCCLA went to state and 16 students won gold medals and 1 student won a silver.

Front Row: Jamie Sieb, Cassandra Alder, Gina Adams, Nikki Bello, Valerie Angotti, Andreo

Warman, Rachael Thomas; 2nd Row: Rebecca Van Vleet, Johnyce Goosby, Geoffrey Sperling, Joia Warner, Michelle Deming, Michelle Matheny, Colleen Madoffert; 3rd Row: Megan Lee, Ashlee Holland, Gagandeep Kaur, Melissa Wadley, Keith Eaton Jr., JoJuana Hemphill, Megan Fisch, Donna Dunn; Back Row: Dominic Angotti, Jack Neylon, Randall Turner, Jesse Koon, Sahal Azeem, Andrew Christopher, Trenka Williams, Nicole Guzman

French Club



Sponsor: Miss Irene Spiro

Front Row: Ashley Poling, Samantha Yurechko, Basirat Sulaman, Felice Graves, Diana Ramirez; 2nd Row: Jamie Kisting, Krystal Marshall, Jenni Festa, Natassia Williams, Miss Spiro; 3rd Row: Kimberly Simmons, Jonathan Warus, Lindsey Harrel, Shemeka Wright, Abigail Deldigha; Back Row: Christopher Burke, Jon Wargo, Brandon Fleis, Hilary Marinich, Emily Peters

Russian Club



Sponsor: Mr. Al Stoner

Pavle Jankulski, Donald Bhe, Ron Cauvesky, Mr. Stoner

Enriching the lives of students by experiencing other cultures is the main goal of the Foreign Language Clubs' advisers Ms Irene Spiro, Mrs Mary Ann Bertram and Mr. Al Stoner. Throughout the year, all four clubs have their big events when members enjoy trips to local restaurants to experience and savor the flavors of different ethnic groups. Meetings for the clubs are focused on learning the language and enhancing student knowledge of the different cultures.

Color Guard

This year the 5 veteran members of Color Guard worked to initiate 11 new members. The Guard won a trophy for best auxiliary and accompanied the band to regional competition. Their motto for the season was "Top Guard." Courtney Albright was the captain and Ayriole Frost was the assistant captain for the season.

Sponsors: Mr. Scott Maack, Mr. Nick Mitchell
Front Row: Angelica Nunn, Jahlil Brown, Valerie Angotti, Calleen Madofferi
2nd Row: Ari Meux, Courtney Albright, Nicole Guzman
3rd Row: Megan Fisch, Michelle Deming, Britney Hill, Jessica Savin
Back Row: Tiarra Jordan, Katie Wilson, Ayriole Frost, Athena Frost, Jackie Goralczyk



Key Club

Members of Key Club help out those in need, especially in the community. Once a month, members visit a local soup kitchen and nursing home. They have sponsored the Senior Citizen Prom, the Giving Tree Project and the 'Love You Forever Project.' They also sponsored Basketball Homecoming Week and the Fall Kids' Carnival, with proceeds going to Camp Riley. Key Club President Senior Melissa Wadley said, 'I really love participating in the 'Love You Forever Project' because we could tell that we really made a difference in peoples' lives.'

Sponsor: Mrs. Corrie Badwell

Front Row: Tyrisha Briscoe, Jahlk Brown, Geoffrey Sperling, Jasmine Doyon, Tara Schoob, Ashley Dallas; 2nd Row: Alexandro Lo Pinto, Christine Stephens, Mylo Johnson, Devin Wilson, Jessica Daniels, Carmen Pickett, Modeline Govert, Joann Salinas; 3rd Row: Katie Calem, Melissa Dorang, Melissa Wadley, Laurie Mitchell, Logina Williams, Natalie King, Tiorra Jordan, Ponyo Lee; 4th Row: DeShona Slater, Krystal Marshall, Jessica Moore, Keith Dean, Tonna Coleman, Dennis Howell, Jaymini Dove; Back Row: Rondell Turner, Dyon Dorang, Edward Contreras, Brandon Parks, Adalya Moore, Gabrielle Moys.



Students Against Destructive Decisions

SADD students come together to increase awareness of drug and alcohol problems. The group learns the value of saying no to drugs, alcohol, peer pressure, violence and other harmful issues. The group organizes the Red Ribbon Week, candle light walk and Pirate initiative. 'I think the issues that SADD addresses are very important,' said Mrs. Flores. 'Many high school students are faced with these issues almost everyday.'

Sponsor: Mrs. Erin Flores

Front Row: Victorio Blanco, Alexandro Lo Pinto, Ashley Robinson, Kyle Forre, Brett Skarup, David Jimenez; 2nd Row: Beverly Horo, Tina Fitzpatrick, Claudio Tiroda, Ashley Dallas, Rico Ramos, Shemeko Wright; 3rd Row: Mrs. Flores, Raymond Tinoco, Jaymini Dove, Vincent Ligan, Samantha Wright, Jeremy Addams, Clifford Cook; Back Row: Evangelina Raja, Matthew Crane, Sahal Azeem, Justin Floyd, Andrew Caruana, Ricardo Hernandez



our community



Socially Together and Naturally Diverse

To help promote diversity, MHS has the STAND organization. The organization performs skits and attends programs to help spread knowledge to the school about diversity, racism, sexism and other issues that society faces. The group also participates in a scavenger hunt, shop with a cop, clothing drive and student exchanges. Mr. Danny Lackey, in his third year as the sponsor, helped to bring STAND to MHS. "STAND gives students an opportunity to know they can make a difference in life and spread knowledge of diversity," said Mr. Lackey.

Sponsor: Mr. Danny Lackey

Front Row: Samantha Yurechko, Ashley Poling, Natalie Madrid, Victoria Blanco, Ashley Robinson, Alexandra LaPinta, Lorna Blondet, Gina Adams, Lindsey Degard, Leslie Allen; 2nd Row: Keith Dean, Gogandeep Kaur, Lagina Williams, Melissa Wadley, Jaymini Dave, Beverly Haro, Johnyce Goosby, Joseph Mireles, Edward Leonard; 3rd Row: Keith Eaton, Hilary Marinich, Tina Fitzpatrick, Vincent Ligan, Adam Poling, Farah Arshami, Anesia Brown, Laurie Mitchell, Antoinette Allen, Jerome Harris; Back Row: Mr. Lackey, Randall Turner, Daniel Neman, Jonathan Hardy, Ricardo Hernandez, Sahil Azeem, Evangelina Rojo, Justin Moore, Lauren Payne, Mychaela Bryant



Quest and Natural Helpers

Members of these two clubs meet in class during the school day. Natural Helpers concentrate on teaching students how to go about helping friends get through their problems. They examine issues like depression, alcohol abuse and grief. Quest members concentrate on how to prevent certain problems from happening. Both organizations are dedicated to helping families in the community in times of need. "I enjoy working closely with the students," Mr. Jerrold Kasarda, sponsor, said. "We really get to know a lot about each other. We are like a family."

Sponsor: Mr. Jerrold Kasarda

Front Row: Amy O'Neill, Megan Grezovski; Back Row: Mr. Kasarda, Kendall Maddox

Locking up the seasons

Hard work and dedication all pays off in the end when you are locking up the season.

Time's winding down. Adrenaline pulses through your veins and your heart thunders in your chest. The game is almost over and you have the power to get the win. Quick thinking and swift movements are the only way to get the goal. Teamwork and anticipation are the keys to success both on and off the playing field. All the hard work that you put in ends as you lock up the season. The skills you learned can be taken with you as you travel to a new team or pursue new goals in life. Locking up the current season means unlocking a new chapter or season as you progress in life.



With a low swing, Junior Katelyn Pruitt tries to return the ball. Pruitt started the season playing No. 2 singles, but switched to No. 1 doubles with teammate Senior Pauline Katsouras.

Diving for the ball, Junior James Reitz tries the last possible maneuver to get the out. The varsity team relied on many members of the junior varsity team to step up and help them throughout the season.





With great concentration, Senior Amy Wedding prepares to serve the ball. The Volleyball Team had a great season, finishing with an overall 20-5 record and 13-1 in the DAC.



Star-struck students Juniors Michael Neal and Nathan Powell display the jersey of New England Patriot's safety Eugene Wilson at halftime during the home game against Valparaiso. The former Pirate returned to Merrillville when the school retired his number seven.

Boys' Cross

Building a

new

family



Senior Eric Severson uses his long strides to his advantage. Severson, a second year runner, plans to run at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer.



Juniors Brett Skrupa and Andrew Coruono motivate each other to keep going during the race. Skrupa ran a steady season with an average of 18:37. Coruono ran a 19:46 during the first race at Govit, and by the end of the year, he ran 17:35 at semi-state. He earned the Most Improved Award for the team.

Keeping pace with the front of the pack, Sophomore Justin Floyd and Seniors Eric Severson and Ricardo Hernandez are waiting to make their break for the lead.



Senior Captain Ricardo Hernandez keeps his own pace during a race against rival DAC runners. Hernandez was one of the top runners in the area during his junior and senior years. His best time was 16:25 at the Highland Invitational.

Two weeks after school let out in June, 2003, the boys' Cross Country Team was running again. They ran three to nine miles per practice throughout the season.

"I was pretty tired, but then my body got used to it," said Sophomore Justin Floyd.

C Coach Mike Hoffman wanted to focus on having a good base. He said, "It paid off. The mileage gave them a solid foundation."

This foundation led the team to semi-state where they placed 18th.

Leading the team this year were the three seniors Clifford Cook, Ricardo Hernandez and Eric Severson.

"It feels good to provide leadership," said Hernandez, "and to have the underclassmen look up to me."

The leadership proved beneficial and the underclassmen followed through.

"Rico Ramos stepped up and helped us have the success to get to semi-state," Floyd stated. Floyd was also one of the top runners.

"It flipped-flopped between Cook, Hernandez and Floyd," said Coach Hoffman. "A lot of the younger guys stepped it up also and discovered that they can run well."

The team also spent a lot of time getting to know one another and bonding. They went out to eat and spent time at each other's houses.

"We were like a family," Cook said.

Nicole Stompou

Team Scores

Hammond Gavitt		3rd
TF South Invite		4th
Chesterson/MC	LW	40-19/20/41
Crown Point	L	44-15
New Prairie		13th of 33
Portage/Lake Central	UL	35-23/49-19
Highland Invite		4th of 20
LaPorte/Valparaiso	UL	38-21/43-17
Hobart Invite		3rd of 13
DAC Meet		7th of 10
Sectional		3rd of 10
Regional		4th of 10
Semi-State		18th of 20

Team Honors

MVP	Justin Floyd
Most Improved	Andrew Caruana
Sportsmanship	Cliff Cook



After running a hard race, Freshman Rico Ramos takes a little break. With a best time of 17:35 at the LHS/VHS Invite, Ramos looks to be a big contributor to the team.



With a look of determination on his face, Senior Clifford Cook sprints for the finish line. Cook has run on the team for four years, and his times have improved every year. With an average of 17:31 and 17:14 at the semi-state to lead the team with the best time, Cook showed leadership and finished his season strong.

Girls' Cross Individual + improvement



Pushing her way past a Lake Central runner, Junior Melanie Maple keeps her pace during a meet. This was Maple's first year on the team, and she will continue next year with hopes of improvement.



In full stride, Raquel Guerrero sprints toward the finish line. A sophomore, Guerrero will have two years to develop strength and quickness.

With the sound of the start gun, the team takes an early lead. Seniors Chrissy Leus and Katie Wilson provided the team with leadership and guidance.



'I use cross country to help me get in shape for track,' Sophomore Tammy Gaddy said. This was Gaddy's first season with the team, and she earned the Most Improved Award during the fall Sports Banquet.

Go get her," Senior Katie Wilson thought as she ran down the path. The girls' Cross Country Team always had to make sure their mental stamina was up.

"I pushed as far as I could," Wilson said. At just one meet they could run up to two and a half miles.

The training was also strenuous. "I had the girls start at three miles and worked them up to ten miles by the end of the season," said Coach Bobi Cole. The girls trained hard to reach their goal of improving their individual times. Junior Sarra Kwell said, "We wanted to improve times individually instead of trying to gain points."

Kwell was also captain and earned the MVP award.

The Rensselaer Invite was one of the key events that helped them reach this goal. "They ran against people their own age and realized where they stood," Coach Cole said.

The girls refused to take the easy way out. Senior Megan Lacny's personal motto was, "No slacking and no taking it easy."

They also interweaved speed into their workouts to improve time. Not only did they work on time, but the girls also lifted weights to make sure areas of their workout were covered.

"I was really tired, but it felt good," said Wilson.

Nicole Stompor



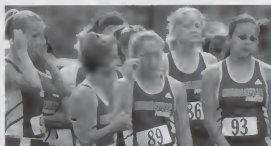
Senior co-captain Megan Lacny uses endurance to finish the race. Lacny's best time in the 2.5 mile race was 18:06 this season.

Team Scores

Andean	W	A 29-M 26
Gavit Invite		9th out of 11
TF South Invite		12 out of 16
Chesterian	L	C 15-M 50
Michigan City	L	MC 15-M 42
Rensselaer Invite Jr/Sr race		4th out of 6
Crown Point	L	CP 15-M 50
New Prairie Invite		23rd out of 25
Portage	L	P 15-M 50
Lake Central	L	C 15-M 50
Highland Invite		10th out of 17
LaPorte	L	L 16-M 49
Valparaiso	L	V 15-M 50
Hobart Invite		5th out of 12
DAC Meet		8th out of 8
Sectionals		6th out of 10

Team Honors

MVP	Sarra Kwell
Leadership	Megan Lacny
Most Improved	Tammy Gaddy
Sportsmanship	Katie Wilson



The Pirates gather together to share words of encouragement. Junior Sarra Kwell received the Most Valuable Runner award.

Fighting for more respect b a i i



Junior Bart Woodward looks to gain yards after catching a pass from Junior Jimmy Reitz. Woodward was also one of the area's best defenders, leading the region with 11 interceptions, that set a new school record.



The Pirates' offensive line sets up pass protection against Dunbar. In the 12-game season, the Pirates scored a total of 39 touchdowns.

Seniors JhRome Tuggle and David Trajkovski block for Senior Brandon Masley, while he runs for a touchdown. Masley plans to attend Indiana University on a full football scholarship.



Senior co-captain Jerry Williams looks to gain yardage in the Pirates' 45-20 win over Chicago Dunbar. A key offensive player, Williams received the Best Offensive Back Award at the end of the season.

The Football Team endured long and strenuous practices, starting off the preseason with three practices a day. Since the last season ended, the returning players worked hard in the weight room to get stronger and become a more powerful team.

With every season, Coach Jeff Yelton looks for improvement. This year the team was young but looked to the four senior captains, Trent Harris, Jerry Williams, Brandon Mosley and Donnie Hopson for leadership.

The team kicked off the season with two wins; however they went through a period of ups and downs. The team had to learn to deal with negative press who doubted the Pirates' potential. "I liked the negative press because it motivates you to play harder," commented Harris.

This was shown when they beat the number two ranked team in the state, Chesterton. The team faced a familiar challenge when they drew Lake Central

for their first sectional game. Many players believed that during halftime the team focused on what they needed to do in order to win the game. When the second half arrived, a whole new team arrived as they came back and brought home a victory.

Merrillville advanced to the second round of sectionals, and once again they proved many spectators wrong as the team beat Chesterton again. This was the first time since 1993 that Merrillville advanced to the sectional championship.

Although the Pirates were down 41-7 in the third quarter against Portage, they continued to fight and scored three more touchdowns.

Many starters will be returning for the Pirates next year. The new captains, Bart Woodward, Nathaniel Powell, Jimmy Reitz and Michael Neal will lead the Pirates through preseason conditioning. "We're going to win state next year," said Woodward.

Lindsey Richards

Team Scores

East Chicago Central	W	27-20
Dunbar	W	45-20
Crown Point	L	23-22
Portage	L	24-7
Michigan City	W	35-14
LaPorte	L	14-0
Valparaiso	L	30-28
Lake Central	W	17-7
Chesterton	W	7-3
Lake Central (Sec.)	W	42-12
Chesterton (Sec.)	W	14-7
Portage (Sec.)	L	43-28
DAC Record		3-4
Season Record		7-5
JV Record		7-2
Freshman Record		1-7

Team Honors

MVP	Brandon Mosley
Most Improved	Robert Toth
Mr. Football	Trent Harris
Mr. Zip	David Trojovski

Outstanding Offensive Lineman	Donnie Hopson
Outstanding Defensive Lineman	Trent Harris
Outstanding Offensive Back	Jerry Williams
Outstanding Linebacker	Bart Woodward



Fighting to stay up, Sophomore Jeremy Billingsley follows the Pirate offensive line for positive yards against Chicago Dunbar. Billingsley will have two more years to improve.



When throwing a touchdown pass, Junior Jimmy Reitz says, "You have so little time to look for an open guy, but you get used to it. It becomes routine." Reitz had a total of 534 yards gained from passing this season.

Girls Overcoming obstacles

f



Stuck on the fringe of the green, Junior Megan Frasca watches her chip shot to the hole. "This year I concentrated on all aspects of my golf game, especially my driving since I had trouble with it last year. I felt I improved in everything toward the end of the season, and it showed in my individual scores," Frasca said.



As she marks her ball, Sophomore Ashley Washburn studies how she will approach her putt to the pin. Along with concentration and patience, alignment of her putts were Washburn's keys to putting perfection.

With her head staying down, Sophomore Janel Barsch strikes her ball down the fairway. Throughout the season, Barsch played in both junior varsity and varsity matches.



Struggling in the rough, Junior Julie Fabian plays her ball into the fairway. Battling with tough shots made the team work harder to reach their team goals of improving and playing at a higher level of golf.

Waking up for 6 a.m. practices, battling with swarms of mosquitoes and playing in extreme weather conditions were only minor obstacles that the girls' Golf Team overcame this season. With increased practice times and routines, the team scores dropped 25 to 30 strokes compared to last year's scores, and they doubled their win total. Individual scores also improved and a few of the girls shot scores in the mid-40s.

With a team roster of only seven golfers, second year Coach Mike Hamacher was able to work with the girls individually on aspects of their games that they felt needed improvement. The team also received instruction from golf pro Donnie Plogh at the Hammond Youth Golf Academy throughout their season. Coach Hamacher commented, "Last year we were an inexperienced team that lacked an overall knowledge of the game. We had to focus on the fundamentals of golf. This year we focused on getting better at course management and club selection."

Even though the team was small, Coach Hamacher was not discouraged when the team competed. "I can't complain. We had a good group of kids that were fun to be around," Coach Hamacher said, "and they improved throughout the season with patience, positive attitudes, hard work, and just a genuine enjoyment for the game." The only player the team will lose to graduation is third year captain, Senior Jacqueline Barsich. Throughout her career on the team, Barsich has provided her team with leadership and low scores, according to her coach and teammates. Junior Megan Frasca led the team this season with low scores that continued to drop in every match. Next year, Frasca will lead her team by taking on the role of captain. Frasca stated, "With an experienced team we can only look to improve next year. This season was fun and a good experience, but I'm looking forward to competing at a higher level of golf next season."

Jacqueline Barsich



As her tee shot soars down the fairway, Senior Jacqueline Barsich watches the path of her ball to see where it lands. "Golf is a mind game of concentration and intimidation that you play with yourself and your opponents. My tee shots are the most important to me because they set the level of intensity for my matches," Barsich stated.

Team Scores

KV Invite	14/20	449
Boone Grove	L	214-216
DAC Tourney	8/8	483
Hammond Nall	W	236-237
Triangular Meet		
Lowell	L	205-235
NL Newton	W	235-282
Portage	L	195-232
LaPorte	L	197-221
Triangular Meet		
Munster	L	179-217
Columet	W	217-248
Michigan City	L	200-237
Triangular Meet		
Hanover Central	L	213-217
KV	W	217-222
Crown Point	L	179-219
Anderson	L	218-224
Valparaiso	L	160-236
Pat Ford Invite	Last Place	486
Hanover Central	L	190-233
Lake Central	L	186-207
Chesterton	L	175-209
Sectionals	10/12	467

Team Honors

MVP	Megan Frasca
Leadership	Jacqueline Barsich
Most Improved	Angela East
Sportsmanship	Julie Fabian



Long, accurate drives and following through are some of Sophomore Angela East's main goals during a match. This season, East shot a personal and team low of 45 in a nine-hole match.

Boys S o c c

A season for rebuilding



Senior Brad Daniel keeps the ball away from West Lafayette's Ben Brennan. Sophomore Bryan Ruder moved down field with Daniel to receive a pass and help advance the ball.



"They're going to have the wind this half so don't let them take any outside shots," says Coach Brian Past. Past gave inspiring speeches before the game, at halftime and after the game. As the team listens to the encouraging words, they get pumped up and ready for action.

With emotions running high prior to the start of the game, number 16 Sophomore Akin Akirrinade gets pumped up by his teammates. From left are Sophomore Brian Albee, Freshman Aleks Rastevski, Sophomore Bryan Ruder, Senior Brad Daniel, Sophomore Edwin Moreno and Junior Tim Jelnek.



As the ball gets into the defense, Senior Vince Cole slides and takes the ball away from Griffith's Noah Zemke. Cole aided the Pirates' defense as the sweeper or the last defender of the team.

Coming off one of the most successful periods in team history, the 2002 boys' soccer team members knew they had their work cut out for them. After losing 17 seniors, Coach Brian Past felt this would be a rebuilding year. With only five returning varsity players, Coach Past knew that leadership would be vital to the team's success. "You can always replace skill, but it is extremely hard to replace chemistry," Coach Past pointed out. New leaders would have to emerge to guide a young squad.

Coach Past was pleased to see the development of new team leaders in the likes of senior captains Vincent Cole, who Coach Past said was a great teacher to the younger players; Brad Daniel, who played nearly every position, including goalie; and Jason Kendero, who improved greatly from last year to become the team's leading scorer.

This feeling was mutual. "He has either become one of my best coaches or one of my best friends," Daniel said of Coach Past.

The team fought through early struggles to come together in what Cole described as feeling "like family." Although finishing with a 6-9-4 record would not allow the team to reach all of its goals, namely another sectional championship, one major goal was reached. Senior Bojan Jovanovic constantly repeated one of the team's goals to "Maximize Team Potential." Jovanovic would not let the team falter in this regard, as evident by receiving the team leadership award for the year. These upperclassmen were key to leading a team filled with 14 freshmen and sophomores.

In hopes of leaving behind a foundation for younger players to build on, Cole leaves some simple words for his teammates: "you gotta have heart."

Ashley Dallas

Team Scores

LaPorte	W	1-0
Lake Central	W	1-0
S.B. Clay	T	3-3
Bremen	L	4-2
Chesteron	L	3-2
Hebron	W	13-1
Valparaiso	L	3-1
West Lafayette	W	1-0
Michigan City	W	3-1
Hobart	T	1-1
Crown Point	L	4-1
Harrison	L	8-5
Lafayette Jefferson	L	2-1
Lake Central	L	8-0
Andean	T	1-1
Portage	L	5-0
Munster	T	1-1
Griffith (Sec.)	W	2-0
Lake Central (Sec.)	L	6-0
DAC Record		2-5
Season Record		9-4
JV Record		4-11

Team Honors

MVP	Vince Cole
Leadership	Bojan Jovanovic
Most Improved	Bryan Ruder
Spartansmanship	Ben Groves



Moving with the ball past West Lafayette's Levin Block, Senior Bojan Jovanovic looks for someone to give a pass to. Jovanovic led the young team with seven assists this season.



With help to his left, Senior Jason Kendero, looks to give a pass to Freshmen Aleks Ratsvski. Kendero led the team with 12 goals.

Girls Deceiving record

On her way to the goal, Senior co-captain Julie Collins, who led the team with 13 goals, gets ready to put the moves on LaPorte's Ashley Schnitzer. Saphamare Alisan Canquest and Senior co-captain Shay Kuzmo attempt to help Collins by crowding their defenders away from the play.



Determined to be first to the ball, Senior Rosalinda Sanchez concentrates on the position of LaPorte's Beth Schneider in order to gain possession of the ball. Sanchez dedicated all four years to the soccer program and made an impact on the defensive end.



With nothing left but physical force, Junior Mondy Medellin pushes her way past her LaPorte defender to get to the ball. Medellin was important to the team's victory by scoring a goal in the shootout.



Stepping away from her normal goalkeeping position, Junior Kim Sneiderwine is the center of attention after scoring one of her two goals in a 6-0 victory over DAC opponent Michigan City. Freshman Kacey Loudermilk, Junior co-captain Kim Jonsen and Saphamare Alyssa Wachter help Sneiderwine with her celebration.

During preseason the members on the girls' Soccer Team had different expectations for the season. Senior Julie Collins said, "I thought that we would be better than the previous year" while freshman Kacey Loudermilk said, "I didn't think that we would do all that great."

The team's goals included working hard, playing together and improving as a team. The team was young with only four returning seniors, so many starting spots were left to be filled by underclassmen.

Although the team had a lot of enthusiasm and spent hours working hard during the season, the girls did not do as well as they would have liked to have done. Despite their record, the team learned how important team unity was. Shay Kuzma said, "We had good team unity. We had fun on and off the field."

Many of the girls made lasting friendships with their teammates from all of the time that they spent together during the season.

Injuries plagued the team during the season, which in return shook up the lineup. Throughout the season the team did improve. "Our record didn't show how well we played," stated Julie Collins.

The team had one of its best games against Valparaiso, a highly-respected team in the DAC. Although the Pirates lost 2-1, they put out their best effort of the season.

The four seniors, who reminisced on their high school soccer team memories during Senior Night, led the team throughout the season. The team will continue to work hard in the weight room and on the field in the off-season in order to better their skills for next year.

Lindsey Richards

Team Scores

Elkhart Central	L	4-1
LaPorte	W	2-1(SOI)
Chesterland	L	6-2
Highland	L	3-0
Valparaiso	L	2-1
Andreon	L	5-1
Griffith	L	2-1
Michigan City	W	6-0
West Lafayette	L	4-3
Crown Point	L	5-2
Munster	L	4-0
Lake Central	L	4-0
Hobart	W	4-0
Highland	L	5-0
North Ridge	L	2-0
Portage	L	4-0
Wheeler(Sec)	W	4-0
Valparaiso(Sec)	L	4-1
DAC Record		2-5
Season Record		4-14
JV Record		3-13

Team Honors

MVP	Julie Collins
Leadership	Kim Jansen
Most Improved	Alyssa Wachter
Sportsmanship	Rosalinda Sanchez



Hustling to the ball, Junior Kim Jansen slides to keep it in bounds. As the team's sweeper, Jansen was an integral part of the Pirates' defense.



With speed and agility, Sophomore Alison Conquest blows past her Highland defender on her way to goal. Conquest was key to the Pirates' offense by scoring seven goals and assisting on seven others.

T Cooperation brings n gratification s



Junior Daniel Burkus makes a volley as Sophomore Jared Perkins watches. Together, Perkins and Burkus use their skills to make the Number One doubles team.

Using speed and agility, Senior Joshua Danahue volleys the ball. After having only three wins last year, Danahue teamed with Stafko to win more than 20 matches this year.



Sophomore Drake Brando focuses in on a volley during his match. Brando played his second year of varsity tennis at Number Two singles this year.



Reaching high, Freshman Staten Stafko hits his serve. Stafko may be a freshman varsity player, but he has been playing tennis for more than five years.

From the start of the 2003 boys' tennis season, the team set their goals high. These goals included winning the Duneland Athletic Conference and reaching semi-state, along with the expectations that each player would become more physically and mentally prepared for post-season play. They lost a lot of regular season matches 3-2, but they were continuously competitive, always playing as well as they could. Head Coach Dave Zimmerman said the team's most memorable match was on the losing side against Valparaiso during a regular dual meet. The match was tied at 2 all, with second doubles leading by 6-5 in the third set. Valpo won, and in the post season, they advanced to the final four. Playing as well as they did during the season against Valpo and then finding out that Valpo had made it so far was reward enough for the team. The Pirates, favored to win the sectional, defeated Andrean and moved on to the regional, only to lose, once again, to Valpo.

Senior Greg Brando was the only member of the team who went on to semi-state. He said, "It felt good, moving on, but it wasn't the same during practice. I like practicing with the team a whole lot more." Brando said he

enjoys playing so much because it relieves stress, and he has fun doing it. To prepare for a match, he always goes through the same warm-up. He drinks a half of a bottle of Gatorade right before each match and finds encouragement in prayer. A team, to Brando, is a group of people who sacrifice their own wants for the good of the group. The team agreed that their cooperation brought them the success that they achieved.

Coach Zimmerman said his biggest challenge was getting 100 percent sincerity out of all of the players, in particular. There were days when a player or two lost their mental focus and became disruptive to the team." He said that coaching is rewarding because of the final gratification of knowing that he has positively shaped someone's mind, tennis mechanics and mental toughness for the game. Losing two seniors next year will have a significant impact on the team. "Greg was a leader and a world beater, and Josh Donohue was solid at second doubles. The team counted on his and Freshman Staten Stofka's points routinely. Coach expects Sophomore Drake Brando will step up and fill his brother Greg's shoes. He said he has high hopes for next year's talent.

Pauline Katsuraos



Stretching to make contact with the ball, Senior Greg Brando serves to his opponent. Brando's dedication and successful performances helped earn him the award of the area's MVP for the year.

Team Scores

Highland	W	3-2
Noblesville Tourney		
Maconaquah	W	4-1
Heritage Christian	L	3-2
Noblesville	L	3-2
LaPorte	W	3-2
Portage	W	3-2
Michigan City	W	4-1
Chesterton	L	3-2
Warsaw Tourney		1st of 8 teams
Lake Central	L	3-2
Andrean	W	4-1
Valparaiso	L	3-2
MHS Invitational		2nd of 8 teams
Hobart	W	4-1
Crown Point	W	4-1
Lowell	W	4-1
Munster	L	4-1
Sectionals		
Andrean	W	5-0
Hobart	W	4-1
Regionals		
River Forest	W	4-1
Valparaiso	L	4-1
DAC Record		4-3
Season Record		12-7
JV Record		3-9

Team Honors

MVP	Greg Brando
Leadership	Daniel Burkus
Most Improved	Josh Donohue
Sportsmanship	Greg Brando



Freshman Ashish Arshanapalli is on the move to return the ball. Even though Arshanapalli is new to the team, he is no stranger to the game.

V Storybook ! ! season ends y b in disappointment ! !



Showing team unity and camaraderie, the team huddles before the game against new conference addition Lake Central. The huddle was a team ritual before each game.



Clearly eager to get to the ball, Senior Heidi Hammand lunges for the dig. Hammand was the defensive specialist on the team this year. She led the team with 235 digs for the season.

Transfer, Senior Julie Demuth, bumps the ball to fellow Senior Tianna Coleman. Demuth had 19 assists, 185 digs and 424 kills in the season. She was named team MVP and also made the first team All-Area.



Senior setter Amy Wedding gets ready to deliver the serve. Wedding made the first team All-Area and led the team with 830 assists during the season.

With the addition of move-in all-area player Senior Julie Demuth, the girls' Volleyball Team was primed for a memorable season. "I was nervous at first, but when I got to know them and made some friends, it helped me get adjusted," said Demuth. Before coming to Merrillville this past summer, she attended Highland High School. The girls welcomed the new hitter/blocker into the lineup. "She was an awesome addition to the team," said senior defensive specialist Heidi Hammond. "There couldn't have been anybody that fit in better."

After the joy of the new addition set in, the girls got down to business. They won their first 22 games, including those against Valparaiso and LaPorte. "It felt good beating them because we were the three top teams in the area. We knew we had to defeat them if we wanted to win the DAC," said four-year varsity player Senior Carol Newell. They went 13-1 in the conference, winning

the outright. After going 22-0 the girls suffered their first loss against Elkhart Memorial. "The first loss was very sad but we realized we were not going to win every game and it took some pressure off us," said senior leader Tianna Coleman.

With the season coming to a close, Coleman couldn't finish the remainder of the year because of health problems; however, the team strived to capture the sectional title without her. Drawing Portage in the first round, the team quickly disposed of the Indians in three games. Next came rival Valparaiso. The team played three games and lost in heart-breaking fashion with a 20-22 final game. After a 20-5 season, the team members were disappointed in the outcome in sectionals, Newell said. "Since we were all so close on and off the court it made it even harder to end it. I know I will never play with these girls again."

Bojan Jovanovic



Soaring high, Senior Carol Newell spikes the ball over the net for a point. Newell, who was one of the captains this season, plans to play volleyball in college for IUPUI.

Team Scores

Griffith	W	3-0
Lowell	W	3-1
LaPorte Tourney		
Rossville	W	2-0
S.B. Cloy	W	3-1
Concord	W	2-0
LaPorte	W	2-1
Andrean	W	3-0
Crown Point	W	3-0
Lake Central	W	3-0
Chesterton	W	3-0
Kankakee Valley Tourney		
New Prairie	W	3-0
Kankakee Valley	W	2-0
Martan	W	2-0
Alexandria Monroe	W	2-1
Valparaiso	W	3-1
LaPorte	W	3-1
Michigan City	W	3-0
Portage	W	3-0
Crown Point	W	3-1
Lake Central	W	3-1
Chesterton	W	3-0
Valparaiso	W	3-2
Terry White Invite		
Elkhart Mem.	L	2-1
McCutcheon	W	2-1
Penn	L	2-0
LaPorte	W	3-1
Michigan City	L	3-1
Lowell	W	2-0
Andrean	W	2-0
Elkhart Memorial	L	2-0
Highland Invite		
Highland	W	2-0
Elkhart Memorial	L	2-0
Portage	W	3-0
Plymouth	W	3-0
Sectionals		
Portage	W	3-0
Valpo	L	2-1
JV Record		5-20
Freshman Record		8-15

Team Honors

MVP	Julie DeMuth
Leadership	Carol Newell
Most Improved	Brittany Hush
Sportsmanship	Virtino Savage

Boys a Youngsters k provide t bright a outlook I



Calling the out of bounds play, Assistant Coach Lari Dust points to the set up the play. Coach Dust is the first female coach for the boys' team. Dust worked with the power forwards and centers during practice, focusing on drills to help with shooting, quickness and power.



As Coach Jim East instructs his players on a play during a Duaneand conference showdown, the rest of the team eagerly waits for the coach to call their name to enter the game. With 10 championships, Coach East has won the most DAC titles of any coach in history.



With Michigan City Center William Walker in his face, Junior James Reitz struggles to get over for the shot. Reitz had the best shooting percentage for the team with 54 percent. At 6'4, Reitz was a regular starter for Coach East at the center position.

This year's Pirate basketball season was more of a learning experience than a run at a title, but the team continued to aim high. The goal this year was lofty. "We wanted to go farther than last year, win state," claimed Senior Bojan Javanovic.

Even though the Pirates did not succeed, they still found camaraderie on the hardwood. Senior Captain Lavell Cook said he will miss the "bonding" most. Cook spent most of the season fighting nagging injuries, but as the season progressed, he came back to form and brought leadership to the Pirate offense. The entire team felt a huge void after losing Cook so early in the season.

Junior James Reitz stated, "The whole team looked up to him for leadership skills. Without him, we lost our confidence." The team lost several games early in the season, until a slight turn around after the Homecoming game.

The team looks to next year with high hopes. Even though this season's team went one and out during sectionals, next year's strong staff of seniors will help improve their playoff hopes. Junior Joshua Mayo added that "cohesiveness" is the key to a strong team and that he will "use that to help the team accomplish their goals."

Coming up short of the initial goal this year will not affect the Pirate's drive for a better season. After a disappointing finish, the skies can only be brighter for the Bucs.

"The experience gained this year will help the boys for next year, intellectually and skill-wise. Now they know what Coach East wants out of them," stated Assistant Coach Lori Dust.

Ashley Dallas



Pushing the ball up the floor, Junior Joshua Mayo looks to start the fast break. Mayo averaged 16.1 points a game all the season and won the MVP award for team. Mayo was voted to the all DAC team by the coaches in the conference.

Team Scores

Highland	L	43-44
Munster	L	52-54
Chesterton	L	48-52
LaPorte	L	61-68
Andrean	L	64-65
Michigan City	W	66-43
Lake Central	L	42-55
Crown Point	W	51-32
Valparaiso	L	36-81
Portage	W	61-47
LaPorte	L	64-74
East Chicago Central	W	39-35
Lake Central	L	47-57
Michigan City	W	66-49
Boone Grove	W	59-35
Crown Point	W	51-43
Chesterton	W	64-55
Valparaiso	L	55-58
Hobart	L	50-56
Portage	W	60-57
Portage(Sec)	L	62-68
Freshman A Team		11-7
Freshmen B Team		12-3
JV record		14-6
Varsity		9-12

Team Honors

MVP	Joshua Mayo
Most Improved	Daryl Arthur
Sportsmanship	Bojan Javanovic



Starting guard Junior Dennis Howell uses his speed to his advantage to get the past a Michigan City defender, TaiQuane Dockery. Howell was a crucial defender as well as an offensive penetrator.

B a Girls k Conference + b a on lock |



Searching the floor for an open teammate, Senior Jacquene Borsich looks to pass the ball as Coach Bob Molicher looks on. Borsich stated, "Winning the DAC was really exciting for me and the other four seniors. We worked really hard for it and proved to other teams that we were capable and deserved to be the uncontested champs."



Diving to recover a loose ball, Senior Marshay Jolly and Junior Melissa Borom scramble with a Benton Central player to regain possession of the ball. Borom stated, "Next year we just need to keep working hard. We should play just as good and go even farther in the state tournament."

As her teammates look on, Senior Marshay Jolly soars above her Benton Central defender to put up the shot. Next season Jolly hopes to continue her basketball career at the University of Southern Indiana.



After a timeout, the team leaves the huddle with their well-known cheer of "Hork!" Team unity on and off the court helped develop the successful team chemistry that led them to an 18-3 season record and the DAC championship.

The rhythmic dribbling, clapping and squeaking that mimics the Nike commercials echoes in the halls outside the gym. Boisterous laughing, singing and dancing emerges from the lockerroom. It is just an average game day for the girls' Basketball Team as they embark in their pre-game ritual.

High pre-season rankings for the team appeared at the local, state and national levels—it was a team with high expectations to fulfill and big obstacles to overcome. The girls ended with an 18-3 overall record, and more importantly, a 13-1 Duneland Athletic Conference record to capture the uncontested DAC Championship.

Coach Bob Maicher said, "Winning the DAC was a tremendous accomplishment for the girls, especially for the juniors and seniors because they came from a program that wasn't even at .500. They'll always be able to come back and see their picture on the wall by the concession stand in the gym and have the memories from this season. They're priceless."

A large part of the team's success came from their intensity and concentration during practice and games to improve against tough area competition. Coach

Maicher said the girls came out in games with the 'eye of the tiger,' with anger, intensity and aggressiveness. Another factor to their success came from key plays by the senior double threat of Marsha Jolly and Highland transfer Julie DeMuth.

Jolly said, "Winning the DAC was very exciting because it was my senior year and because it's been a long time since Merrillville has held the title."

The girls' fairy tale season came to a halt when they lost to Valparaiso in the first round of sectionals. It was a heartbreaking loss for Marsha Jolly, Julie DeMuth, Tianna Coleman, Lanesha Thomas and Jacqueline Barsich, the team's five seniors.

"We all wanted to go downstate. We had the capabilities and talent to do it, but we needed to play better," Junior Melissa Barom said about their loss.

Coach Maicher is in full gear for next season as he prepares to defend the DAC title. He stated, "We want to surprise a lot of people next season. A lot of people will write us off and look past us. Our program reloads; it doesn't rebuild."

Jacqueline Barsich

Team Scores

Highland	52-37
Valparaiso	42-31
East Chicago Central	38-43
Portage	38-25
Chesterton	57-31
LaPorte	42-17
Benton Central	60-24
Michigan City	62-37
Lake Central	50-32
Crown Point	50-47
Hobart	57-42
Valparaiso	39-44
Portage	56-39
Munster	54-13
LaPorte	52-25
Lake Central	40-32
Chesterton	51-35
Michigan City	67-27
Lowell	54-17
Crown Point	46-37
Sectional - Valparaiso	35-47
DAC Record	13-1
Season Record	18-3
JV Record	11-9
Freshman Record	13-7

Team Honors

MVP	Marsha Jolly
Leadership	Julie DeMuth
Most Improved	Candice Wright
Sportsmanship	Jacqueline Barsich



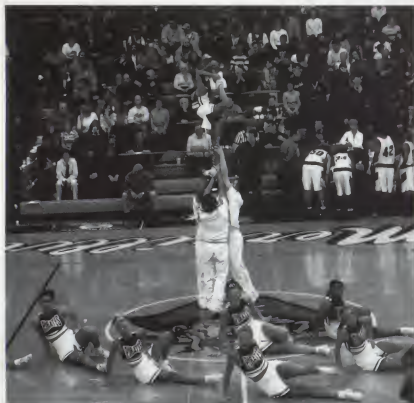
Going up for a layup against two Benton Central players, Sophomore Jessica Gallinatti attempts to draw the foul. Gallinatti stated, "This season I worked on developing more experience at the varsity level and I focused on my offensive game."

Girls' Basketball 169



Dribbling past her opponent, Senior Julie DeMuth drives the ball down the sideline. DeMuth, a transfer from Highland and future Ball State Lady Cardinal, commented, "When I came here this year all the girls were really nice and they helped me with my dancing skills in the locker room. I was really excited for the first game of the season, because we played Highland and my old teammates."

Showing e e spirit and e Pirate d pride n g



The boys of the squad hold Senior Tara Schaab high in the air. Stunting is music to the crowd's ears. "One of the hardest things about stunting is that we have to have complete trust in one another," said Junior Kristen Neese.



Getting the crowd involved, Junior Kristi Pawlowski, Senior Ashley Dallas, Junior Kristen Neese, Senior Tara Schaab and Junior Kristy Polster chant in front of the student section. Dallas said, "I like basketball, especially when the crowd gets pumped up and chants along with us."

Dancing during the time-outs and quarter breaks at the home games make the squad unique in this region. Junior Kristy Polster displays her dance ability with a smile on her face.



Holding the megaphones high Junior Randall Pedraza, Junior Mark Wieneke and Senior Benjamin Graves watch as a free throw is made. These boys contribute their strength and voices to help the squad.

"Come on crowd, yell it loud! Yell M-H-S!" Sometimes, a simple sideline chant is all it takes to get the crowd excited at a football or basketball game. Appropriately titled, cheerleaders are responsible for keeping the crowd involved in the games, not only the wins but the losses as well. The squad held tryouts in March 2003 and practiced all summer to prepare for football season.

In June the co-ed squad attended a National Cheerleaders Association's camp. The four-day camp trains the team in cheers, sideline chants, dances and stunting. On the final day, awards are given, the most valuable being the Top Team award. The squad won last year but came up short this summer. "I know that our squad had the talent to win Top Team, but the heart just wasn't there," stated Senior Ashley Dallas.

A rainy football season began and the cheers squad consisted of 15 sophomores, junior and senior girls, and 2 boys. When basketball came around, the team split into two squads. Purple Varsity cheered at boys' basketball games and White Varsity cheered for Girls' basketball.

Hoping for the boys to have another victorious postseason, the Purple Varsity practiced twice a week preparing 15 cheers, 10 dances and countless sideline chants. Although the Basketball Team had a disappointing ending, the cheerleaders ended on a happy note. Junior Kristen Neese commented, "The squad improved greatly from the beginning of the year and we learned to work together so, as we always say, no regrets!"

Bojan Javanovic



Listening to the Band of Pirates play "The Star Spangled Banner," the varsity cheerleading squad awaits the start of the game. The team also dances to the school's fight song prior to the game. These events are a time honored tradition.



"My favorite moment this season was during the sectional game against Chesterton when the boys won. The crowd just went crazy," Senior Nicole Stompas said. The squad cheered the Football Team to a victory.

Using stunts to get the crowd's spirit up, the squad performs during the pregame. The Purple and White Varsity squads combined efforts for the 2003 football season.

Team Honors

MVP
Tara Schaab
Most Improved
Benjamin Graves

PEP Award
Ashley Dallas

Leadership
Kristen Neese

D a n c e Competing T he results in rewards m



Performing during a half time show, Sophomore Lindsey Alvarez moves to the beat of the music. Alvarez and her teammates enjoyed dancing during half time, but they liked dancing at competitions better.



To keep the energy high, Sophomores Lauren Hush and Tiffany Taylor utilize the various techniques they have learned to keep the crowd fired up during their half time performances. Though dancing can be done individually, being a part of the Dance Team requires a lot of hard work from each member so that the routines are uniformly appealing to the audience.

During half time of a boy's basketball game, the Dance Team performs for the crowd. The team modeled most of their routines this season from those they had learned this summer during a week of camp at Valparaiso University.



As she smiles for the crowd, Junior Danielle Nikrin attempts to carry the fans' enthusiasm into the second half of the game. She said, "Facial expressions are important to get the crowd more into the game, because if you look like you're having fun, then they'll have fun as well."

With a flash of their pom-poms and smiles on their faces, the Dance Team was an important accessory to the home basketball games, but their true success happened off the home court.

Pumping up the crowd before games was a fun part of their season, but their true passion was competition.

"The competitions were my favorite because we got to see everyone's styles and techniques and how they compared to us," Head Captain Senior Tiffany McCauley said.

Decisions about who would be competing were done differently than the preceding years.

"The makeup of the squad was different," Coach Michelle Caughlin said. "We went to one squad and picked the competition team from there. It was very unique."

The squad competed in many different areas such as funk, ensemble and kick. Some members also prepared individual routines or created small ensembles to show off their favorite dance genre.



With crisp moves, Senior Tiffany McCauley entertains the crowd during a pre-game routine. McCauley has been on the MHS Dance Team for three years, but she has taken dance classes since she was 5 years old.

"Lyrical is more my style of dance," Co-Captain Ashly Janovick, a junior said. "It's more emotional and more fun for me to get into."

The girls participated in regional competition and received second place in both of their categories. The combination of their talents and commitment was their one-way ticket to state.

"It was pretty exciting to make it to state," Junior Danielle Nikrin said. "We usually do advance, so it wasn't a big shock to us."

Unfortunately, the girls did not win the state competition, but that is not stopping them from trying again next year.

"When you practice, leave your attitude at the door," McCauley said. "You're there to dance for yourself and no one else, so just have fun."

Jamie Kistingier

Team Competitions

Merrillville

Funk — 1st place

Munster

Funk — 3rd place

Kick — 2nd place

Ensemble 1 — 1st place

Ensemble 2 — 4th place

Lake Central

Funk — 6th place

Kick — 3rd place

Ensemble 1 — 3rd place

Ensemble 2 — 7th place

Regional

Funk — 2nd place

Kick — 2nd place

Ensemble 1 — 5th place

Ensemble 2 — 7th place

State

Funk — 6th place

Kick — 5th place

Ensemble 1 — 5th place

Team Honors

MVP

Most Improved

Best Performer

Rookie of the Year

Best Mental Attitude

Most Dedicated

Tiffany McCauley

Bloir Mitchell

Ashley Hinchin

Melissa Hubble

Ashly Janovick

Ashly Janovick



Smiling with her pom-poms in her hands, Junior Ashley Hinchin dances while the boys' Basketball Team warms up. The MHS Dance Team is one of the very few teams that perform prior to the varsity basketball games to encourage the fans to cheer on their team.

Gym Focusing on the a s future i c s



Competing on the uneven bars, Sophomore Denise Coleman attempts a kip. Coleman was honored as the team's MVP.



Maintaining her balance, Junior Taesia Alford prepares for a front hand spring. "My best event is the balance beam," said Alford. Alford's best score on the beam was an 8.5 this year.



Taking her place on the floor, Junior Taesia Alford sets up the first pose of her floor routine. Alford has competed for MHS for three years.

This year's team members learned valuable skills and lessons they plan to bring back to next year's team.

A full team consists of four members, which allows them to compete team. However, this year Junior Toesia Alfard and Sophomore Denise Coleman competed individually.

"This year was a route of bad luck," said Coach Diane Roberts.

The team consisted of four members; however, two could not compete due to injuries. Freshman Maunya Edwards was a key gymnast until she tore her ACL. Alfard stated, "We had an incomplete team. There was no way we could win a dual meet or ever be eligible for state. A third team member would have made a difference."

Coach Roberts said the team followed Michigan City's schedule and did not host any home dual meets.

"This year was a big mental attitude change," said Roberts.

The pressure was different because the girls had to concentrate more on their individual performances.

"I was only competing for myself, therefore there was no team to let down just myself," said Alfard. The emphasis this year was on these two girls.

"The girls had to learn how to be gracious, hold their heads high, and be proud of others," said Roberts. Alfard and Coleman improved immensely and their goals changed, said Roberts.

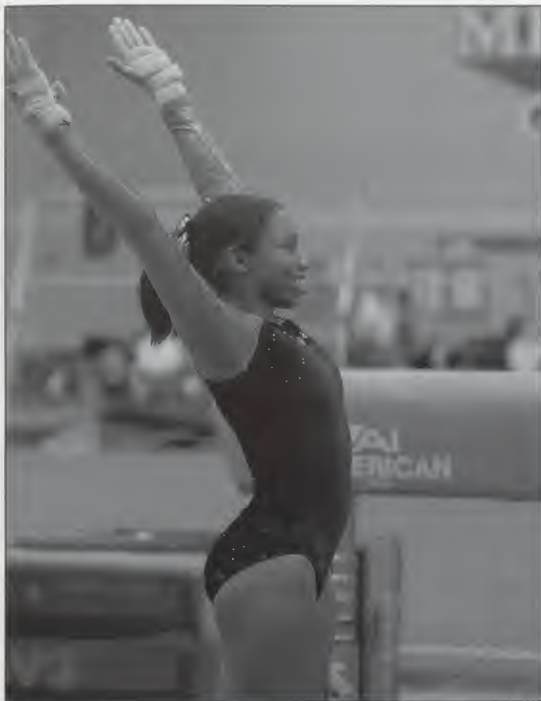
"My number one goal was to finish the season. When there is just me and one other girl, there is not much motivation," said Alfard.

This year was a learning experience that will help the expected 12 to 13 girls next year. "I am very proud of the girls this year," commented Roberts.

Alford and Coleman plan to return next year with the hope of refocusing everything they learned back on the team. The team will be practicing during the summer and taking trips to get to know each other.

Alford said, "We will have a strong team both physically and mentally. Next year will be great!"

Ashley Berger



After completing her twisting vault, Sophomore Denise Coleman salutes the judge. Coleman improved her vaulting technique and received high scores for her effort.

Team Honors

MVP
Denise Coleman



"This year was a big mental attitude change."

Coach Diane Roberts



With a precise leap, Junior Toesia Alfard attempts a walk on the balance beam. Alfard was the leader as the only junior on the Gymnastics Team.

Boys w Eight m members i with one goal



Freshman Stoten Stafka continues to battle the dock during his freestyle event. Stafka, in his first year swimming, spent most of the season competing in the endurance events, which include the 500 and 200 freestyle.



Junior Matt Hayes springs his arms back in order to propel his body forward while swimming the butterfly. Hayes, as a third-year swimmer, was one of the captains of the team.

Solo Senior Joseph Plukas competes in the 100-yard breaststroke. This year was Plukas's eighth year swimming and his second year leading the Pirates as their captain.



Junior Jens Douglas swims using the freestyle stroke. Douglas competed mainly in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle events.

This year's boys Swim Team faced a tough season due to the lack of swimmers. The team only consisted of seven swimmers and one diver. The team suffered a lot because they did not have enough swimmers to compete in the relays. The team suffered tremendously at the beginning with the injury of Senior Joseph Plukas.

Junior Tommy Slivka said, "Our goal this year was to have excellent teamwork and throughout the season the goal was certainly achieved. The team worked out before and after school, ran everyday, and swam for two hours daily to improve their strengths. Coach Bryon Angerman said, 'The team kept

on going strong because they felt they had to accomplish their goals and they were very self-motivated.' Since Plukas will be graduating this year Slivka said, 'Our coach must work hard in recruiting new members or else we will suffer greatly next year.'

The Pirates came close to defeating Kankakee Valley but the Pirates lost by a point because they were short of swimmers in relays, the event that accumulates the most points. Another factor that added to the disappointing season was that the swimmers had to participate in more than one event to fill in the empty spots Plukas said, 'Swimming in more than one event right after another really wore down many individual's endurance.'

Joanne Flores



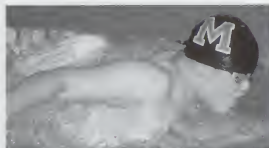
Junior Thomas Slivka dives into the water while completing a inward one-and-a-half somersault pike. Slivka also competed in the 200 free relay at a few meets during the season. "I was happy that my personal scores improved throughout the season," stated Slivka.

Team Scores

Portage	L	129-39
Rensselaer Central	L	131-46
Lake Central	L	138-37
Highland	L	107-45
Hobart	L	95-55
Crown Point	L	130-49
Griffith	L	136-36
Lawell	L	117-58
Valparaiso	L	129-50
Kankakee Valley	L	85-84
Michigan City	L	136-40
LaPorte	L	112-56
Munster	L	127-54
Chesterton	L	131-46
DAC		8th

Team Honors

MVP	Joseph Plukas
Most Improved	Caleb Douglas
Sportsmanship	Staten Stafka



Freshman Chris Burke finishes up the butterfly stroke in order to make it to the finish line. Before competing in high school, Burke gained experience in the Merrillville Aquatic Club.

Girls w Spirit m remains high i n throughout year



Senior Melissa Wadley swims the 100 yard breaststroke. Wadley was a strong breaststroke and butterfly swimmer.



Sophomore Margan Gill swims the 100 yard butterfly.



Sophomore Margan Gill swims in the 200 yard individual medley. Swimmers needed to build up their endurance for races such as this one.



Laura Flynn swims the 100 yard backstroke during a meet this year. Flynn finished first or second in most meets.

Teamwork can make a champion out of any team. While the girls' Swimming Team did not have the best of seasons, they did achieve support from their teammates. "The hardest part of the season was getting the newer swimmers to interact with the veteran swimmers," said Coach Bryon Angerman. Leadership would eventually emerge from the veterans late in the season.

Another problem for the girls was the number of fans they had to support them. Senior Melissa Wadley said, "Without any fans we would support and fuel each other." The girls would occasionally TP other swim team members' houses to keep morale high.

The team had many struggles they would have to deal with, including teams that were bigger and stronger. "When we would face teams that were bigger and stronger, the most important thing was that everyone kept a positive attitude," said Senior Erika Larson.

In a season with no victories, team members may find it hard to find any positives. Sophomore Katherine Kaplar said, "We always had our confidence up." The girls kept their confidence up by always having fun and spirit.

A good relationship between the swim team members and the coach is needed for a strong nucleus. Wadley said, "Swimming for the age group helped me get to know the coach and I can joke around with him." Age group is for children that are not yet in high school but they want to be a part of the Merrillville Aquatic Club.

Although the team had many struggles, a few individuals stood out for the girls. Wadley advanced to the sectional finals in three out of four events. Senior Ashley Jones placed sixth at semi-state and everyone else put their best personal times down.

The girls will have at least four freshmen come up next year and Coach Angerman is confident. Coach Angerman said, "We hope to finish with a .500 dual record and at least third in the Duneland Athletic Conference."

Brad Daniel



Sophomore Denise Berney completes a dive. Berney has been in diving for two years and dove this year with Senior Ashley Jones and Sophomore Morissa Duncan.

Team Scores

Lowell	L	108-72
Cheslerston	L	150-35
Portage	L	121-64
Rensselaer Central	L	121-52
LaPorte Invitational		7th
Lake Central	L	142-44
Highland	L	105-61
Hobart	L	98-83
Crown Point	L	125-59
Griffith	L	116-68
Valparaiso	L	124-52
Michigan City	L	108-63
DAC Meet		8th
LaPorte	L	108-63
Munster	L	143-44
DAC Record		0-7
Season Record		0-13

Team Honors

MVP	Ashley Jones
Most Improved	Ashley Washburn
Sportsmanship	Melissa Wadley
Leadership	Emily Peters



Sophomore Kora Fejes and Senior Erika Larson scream encouragement to their teammates. Teamwork was a very important to the team's spirit throughout the year.

W r Confident ending s despite ! hesitant start n g



Senior captain Jerry Williams gets a firm grip on opponent Dan Martinez from Portage. Williams wrestled at 189, but at the regional and at other times during the season wrestled at different weights. At the team regional, he wrestled at 215 and won.



Senior Tommy Vechey overpowers Portage wrestler Darren Elkins. Vechey, who was one of the team captains, said, "We worked hard during all practices and Coach always pushed us to our limits."



Newcomer Sophomore Wesley English waits for the perfect time to attack his opponent. English went to Pierce and Harrison, but then went to Mount Carmel High School in Illinois for his freshman year. English became eligible two weeks into the season.



Attempting to squirm out of the tight hold, Senior JhRome Tuggle battles during his semistate match against Portage's Dallas Hesselline. Tuggle was both sectional and regional champion at 160 pounds. His season ended when he lost in the second round of the semistate.

The Wrestling Team of 2004 started off with a rough beginning because of the lack of attitude and confidence. Quickly after finding out that the Pirates would go against the Portage Indians, who were ranked second in the state, the Pirates knew they had to get into gear. Senior Tommy Vechey said, "Morning practices and weight training really assisted our team's strength and endurance."

Many freshmen gained experience from wrestling with the Pierce team last year. Freshmen filled up weight classes that had been left empty with the loss of last year seniors. Vechey said, "Our team was not affected that much because the loss of last year seniors. Instead our team gained more wrestlers with enormous amount of experience."

Senior Rob Wahlman II said, "The Pirates had the best senior captains this year that Merrillville has ever had." Strong leadership skills helped the Pirates get back on their feet. Throughout the season, the team got stronger technically and gained a better attitude.

Fans were also a great contribution to this year's success. Wahlman said "Rowdy fans helped us get less nervous about the meet and more pumped up to wrestle." Coach David Maldonado said, "The Pirates being ranked helped the team accomplish their goal more easily because they were a new team in the region and they wanted to show off their skills."

In the end, the Pirates came in second at sectionals and were named regional champs for 2004. Jerry Williams, Dexter Larimore, Gary Nelson, Eric Oria and Wesley English all advanced to the state tournament.

Joanne Flores



Senior Rob Wahlman II locks up with Portage wrestler Jan Brandon. Wahlman was one of the captains this year. Wahlman was also sectional champion of 189 pounds

Sophomore standout heavyweight wrestler Dexter Larimore controls his opponent Larimore, undefeated during the regular season, was 45-0 before his first loss. At semi-state, Larimore lost to undefeated David Benner of Benton Central

Team Scores

LaPorte Duals		2nd Place
Valparaiso	W	39-24
Portage	L	38-24
Tam Cameron Invitational		2nd Place
Crown Point	W	46-19
Lake Central Duals		1st Place
Munster Duals		1st Place
Chesterton	W	58-8
Lake County Tournament		1st Place
Michigan City	W	66-7
DAC Tournament		3rd Place
Lake Central	W	55-12
Sectionals		2nd Place
Regionals		1st Place
Semi-State		2nd Place
Season Record		24-3
DAC Record		5-2

Team Honors

MVP	Jerry Williams
Most Improved	Nathaniel Powell
Sportsmanship	Robert Wahlman II
Leadership	Jerry Williams



With a fierce look Junior Gary Nelson gets a firm hold and tries to make a move for the pin. Nelson went to state in the 103 weight class and placed eighth.

Boys' Lacking seniors, not e b leadership



Swinging the bat, Sophomore Beaudilla McClendon connects for an infield hit. McClendon was a base thief, stealing 14 this season.



Providing encouragement, Coach Zac Wells congratulates his sophomore slugger Daryl Evans. Evans led the Duneland Athletic Conference with nine home runs.

Starting catcher, Junior Douglas Kurczynski, stretches his body to catch a fly ball. Kurczynski hopes to have a .400 batting average and to throw out a higher percentage of base runners next year.



Diving back into first base, Senior Jason Plys tests the apposing pitchers' abilities. Plys will attend St. Joseph College next year on a baseball scholarship.

Although there was only one returning senior player, the team was hopeful for a successful season. "Jason Plys had a shoulder injury last year. If he hadn't, he could have easily been one of the top players in the area this year. I had no doubts about the younger guys on my team, though," said head coach Zac Wells.

Most team members worked during the off-season to prepare themselves for the transition. "We just worked real hard and Mr. Wells made us hustle. We all got better," stated Junior Douglas Kurczynski. The team had no fears about the talent of its players.

"Skill wasn't a problem," said Junior Jimmy Reitz. Reitz said he and the rest of the team were most looking forward to playing the Lake Central Indians. "We

all wanted to hit against Brett Sommers. He's one of the best pitchers around." The Pirates knew that would be a tough game and the Pirates lost 4-0.

Several members of this year's team have been playing ball together since they were in Little League. "It lets us have fun. Since we've known each other forever, we're real comfortable playing together," Reitz said of his teammates.

The Pirates ended their season with a sectional loss to Valparaiso. With only one senior leaving, it would seem that the team is not losing much, but that is not the case. Losing Plys will impact the Pirates next year. "Although it is only one person, it's a big spot to fill. Someone is going to have to step up to fill his shoes," said Junior Kevin Marsh.

Ashley Dallas



Showing grit, Junior Ryan Donahue fires a curve ball. Donahue plans to improve by playing summer baseball, lifting weights and working on his technique.

Team Scores

Hobart	W	7-6
Hammond High	W	18-0
Griffith	L	8-2
Boone Grove	L	8-4
Morton (DH)	W/W	9-3;12-3
Chesterton	L	9-8
Michigan City	W	9-3
Highland	W	12-2
Lake Central	L	4-0
Portage	L	4-2
Valparaiso	W	5-4
Yorktown	W	9-3
LaPorte	L	4-1
Crown Point	L	16-3
Chesterton	W	10-8
Michigan City	W	7-4
Lake Central	L	5-4
Portage	W	9-4
Valparaiso	W	10-7
LaPorte	L	2-1
Crown Point	W	11-9
Andean	W	4-2
Bishop Noll	L	6-0
Munster (DH)	W/W	8-7;10-4
Valparaiso (Sec.)	L	5-0
DAC Record		7-7
Season Record		16-11
JV Record		11-13
Freshman Record		3-17

Team Honors

MVP	Darryl Evans
Most Improved	David Jukus
Spatsmanship	Jason Plys
Leadership	Douglas Kurczynski

Changing Boys' golf and another farewell

As the rest of the team gathers around, first year Coach Richard Ohlenkamp gives swing instruction before a match. "We had a great group of guys that enjoyed playing golf, and I had fun coaching and playing with the guys. I kept things positive and tried to make playing fun because if you don't, you won't play well," Coach Ohlenkamp said.



Senior Raleigh Ensen chips up to the green in an attempt to place his ball close to the pin. Ensen, who rotated the No. 1 and No. 2 spots with fellow Senior Shawn O'Keefe, said, "I worked on improving my own game this season. I tried not to take everything so seriously and I just tried to play better."



Following through with his stroke, Junior Kristopher Simonovski strikes his ball out of the rough. During the season, Simonovski played at the No. 4 spot.



Stuck behind two trees and in the rough, Senior Stephen Burke uses a wedge to punch out into the fairway. Burke said, "We didn't play well this season, but we tried to make playing fun. The most fun I had this season was when Coach Ohlenkamp played me at the No. 10 J.V. spot."

The boys' Golf Team started off their 2004 season with a clean slate and a new coach. After six seasons of coaching the team, former Coach Joe Starkey decided to retire.

"We did not know what to expect this season because we were under a new boss," Senior Shawn O'Keefe said.

New Coach Richard Ohlenkamp said, "I was ready to start the season and see what these boys were made of."

The team anticipated a good season with the leadership of Seniors Raleigh Erslen, Stephen Burke and O'Keefe. This season the team hoped that they would increase their record with the help of new freshman team members, Giovanni Macapagal, Genesis Rodrigo, Dennis Barsich and Stoten Stoffka.

Barsich said, "I was a little nervous at the beginning of the season because I felt that I had to be as good as the upperclassmen."

"O'Keefe and Burke gave me guidance by teaching me innovative skills to improve my scores," Junior Kristopher Simanovski said.

During the off-season, members of the team went to lessons, driving ranges and camps. They played at various courses in the area to strengthen their golf skills. Even during their season, some players went to ranges and courses to work on their weaknesses and perfect their individual golf games.

The team will go through many changes in the line up next year because of the three graduating seniors. The team hopes to recruit new members next season to fill the spots the seniors will leave open.

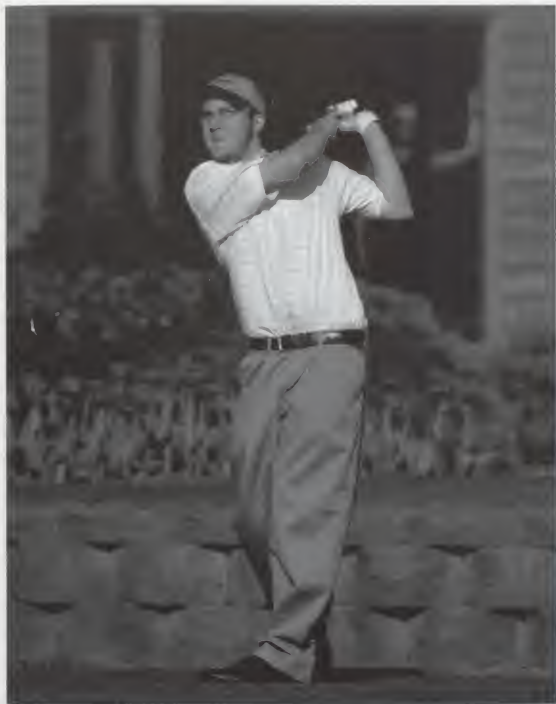
Joanne Flores

Team Scores

Marquette Invite	13th	391
Boone Grove	L	172-219
LaPorte/Portage	L	161-161-179
KV Invite	16th	375
Andrean	L	159-187
Chesterton/CP	L	165-167-202
LC/MC	L	155-155-174
Rensselaer Invite	20th	426
Boone Grove Invite	12th	211
Valparaiso	L	166-193
LC/MC	L	153-159-189
Wheeler	W	179-205
CP/Valparaiso	L	175-158-217
Chesterton/LaPorte	L	157-174-197
Portage	L	157-171
DAC Championship	8th	394
Sectional		L
DAC Record		0-14
Season Record		1-16
JV Record		1-14

Team Honors

MVP	Shawn O'Keefe
Leadership	Shawn O'Keefe
Most Improved	Stephen Burke
Sportsmanship	Matthew Kasperan



As his ball flies down the fairway, Senior Shawn O'Keefe spots where his shot will fall from the teebox. "I struggled and didn't play well this season, but Coach Ohlenkamp found ways to make practice and playing fun," O'Keefe said.



Squinting into the sunlight, Sophomore Scott Schafer watches his shot fall onto the green. Schafer said, "I really worked on my chipping and short-game, and I think I've really improved in those parts of my game this season."

Surprising o fans with b talent !



With a swing of her bat, Senior Jenna Hill prepares to hit the softball. Hill contributed to the season with a .312 batting average.



First baseman Senior Jennifer Mason positions herself in the defensive stance anticipating the throw. Despite an injury to her arm early in the season, Mason returned to the lineup and was one of the top batters for the Pirates.

Attempting to steal second base, Junior Brittany Hush slides in safely. Hush came out as the top batter during the season.



With a quick reach towards the ball, Senior shortstop Heidi Hammond prepares to execute an out. Hammond has been the Pirates' shortstop for the last four years.

The girls' Softball Team surprised fans this year as they won more games than they have in the past three years. New Varsity Head Coach Amy Govert came with experience, having played softball for Highland High School and Valparaiso University. She wanted to bring a positive energy to the team and give them the confidence that they would need to win games. "I knew that the girls had talent and could play. They just needed to believe in themselves in order to succeed," stated Coach Govert.

The team worked throughout the pre-season to prepare for the season, sometimes practicing before school. "We did a lot more vigorous weight-training in order to make us stronger and faster as a team," said Senior Jenna Hill.

With more confidence than the past years, the girls began the season with three wins in a row. "We wanted to prove to everyone that we could beat the better teams out there. I felt confident that we were capable of beating every team that we faced," stated Coach Govert.

With the addition of Freshman Amy Vargas, the team felt that their pitching would be strong. "The pitching was always good. When we lost, it was because our defense or our offense failed," stated Assistant Varsity Coach Andrew Niksich.

Even though the girls did not beat all of the teams that they would have liked to, they still felt that they improved from the beginning of the season. For the first time in four years, they won their pool at the Twin Lakes Tourney. "I was extremely proud of the how the girls played at the tournament. When they all come to play, they play well," stated Coach Govert.

The girls and coaches all agreed that they played one of their best games against Portage when they fell short in the seventh inning, losing 4-3. "That was the best that our team has ever played. It was just unfortunate that we did not come out on top," said Senior Heidi Hammond.

This was not the case when the girls overcame Valparaiso 1-0. "It felt incredibly good to beat Valparaiso. This was the first time in all my four years playing that we beat them," said Senior Kristine Paskash.

The team will continue to train and practice throughout the summer to prepare for next season. Coach Govert said, "We are going to have some big shoes to fill with the loss of five seniors, but I know that the underclassmen are going to step up."

Lindsey Richards

Team Scores

Griffith	W	5-0
Lake Station	W	14-1
LaPorte	W	7-0
Hebron	W	2-1
Crown Point	W	5-2
Penn Invite		3rd Place
Chesterton	L	3-7
Michigan City	W	8-3
Lake Central	L	9-0
Portage	L	4-3
Valparaiso	L	1-0
Kankakee Valley	W	10-4
Bishop Noll	W	13-7
LaPorte	L	2-1
Crown Point	L	9-1
Chesterton	L	9-1
Michigan City	W	2-0
Lake Central	L	13-2
Twin Lakes Tourney		3rd Place
Lowell	L	3-1
Portage	L	2-1
Valparaiso	W	1-0
Munster	L	10-0
Boone Grove	W	5-0
Sectionals	L	
Crown Point	W	2-0
Portage	L	3-0
DAC Record		59
Season Record		15-6
JV Record		3-21

Team Honors

MVP	Heidi Hammond
Most Improved	Michelle Paskash
Sportsmanship	Amy Vargas
Leadership	Kristine Paskash



Focusing on the current batter, Senior Lindsey Richards and Junior Megan Stocks sit in the dugout supporting their teammates. "My favorite part of the season was spending quality time with my teammates," Richards said.

Softball 187



Reaching her arm up after the tag, Senior catcher Kristine Paskash looks at the umpire to confirm the out. Paskash has been on the varsity Softball Team all four years of high school.

The Lovin' the n addition Girls'



In between points, Sophomore Callie Lucas and Senior Pauline Katsouras encourage each other with a high five. Paired together for only a few matches, the girls worked hard at the No. 1 doubles position.



Coaching the team during changeovers, Dr. Ferrar Levinson discusses proper positioning and placement to Sophomore Morgan Zellers and Senior Jasmine Dayan. Dr. Levinson is a retired dentist and has been a volunteer coach for the boys' and girls' tennis teams for 18 years.

Aiming low, Junior Katelyn Pruitt reaches out to stop a play from her opponent. Coach Dave Zimmerman said, "She is definitely one of our most improved players on the team."



At No. 2 singles, Junior Katherine Coleman follows through to return the ball to her opponent. Coleman started the season playing singles, but finished the season at the No. 2 doubles spot, playing with Sophomore Callie Lucas.

The 2004 girls Tennis team seemed a little uneasy at the outset of their spring season. With the loss of their No. 1 singles player '03 graduate Casady Pruitt, the team was in need of a player who would step up and handle the pressure. Five varsity players would be coming back from last year, but the majority of them were more comfortable playing doubles.

Then one day at the beginning of the second semester, Coach Dave Zimmerman received information about a young lady, Nina Bezvina from the Ukraine, who was interested in playing tennis for Merrillville. He invited her to a pre-season conditioning session. Impressed by the talent Bezvina displayed, he said, "I was ecstatic that she had been playing for seven years. She had enormous power, quick hands and quick feet." It seemed as if the team had found a replacement at the No. 1 singles spot.

At first I was scared as to how the team would treat me, especially because of my troubles with the English language. Now I feel more comfortable with my teammates," said Bezvina. As she began to receive more and more attention from the media, she added, "I hope to become famous one day."

Coach Zimmerman felt that the team was strong enough to win the sectional and potentially make it as far as semi-state. His only problem was getting the players in the right positions. "This year has definitely been the longest it has taken to decide the lineup," he said.

Just as the lineup was beginning to take its form, Sophomore Callie Lucas injured her ankle one day during practice. She said, "I just hoped I hadn't broken my ankle." With Callie out for about two weeks, Coach Zimmerman had to reconsider the lineup. Soon after, Junior Katelyn Pruitt was experiencing pain in one of her knees. These injuries had the most effect on the No. 1 doubles spot. Senior Pauline Katsouras shared the position with both Lucas and Pruitt. As the season progressed though Katsouras played with Pruitt at No. 1 doubles.

Early on, the team knew that their toughest matches would be against Michigan City and LaPorte. LaPorte's match was the closest, coming down to a third set in the No. 1 doubles spot. Despite the loss, Coach Zimmerman said, "We had them on their heels, definitely surprising them." This strong type of competition helped them continue to improve throughout the season.

Pauline Katsouras



The newest member of the MHS girls' Tennis Team, Sophomore Nina Bezvina backhands the ball over the net to her opponent. Bezvina was this year's Duneland Conference MVP, defeating every opponent in the conference. Bezvina advanced to the individual regionals, where she lost in the first round to Griffith freshman Jelena Pupac, 4-6, 2-6, 3.

Team Scores

Highland	L	4-1
Plymouth Invite		3rd of 4 teams
Plymouth	L	4-1
New Prairie	W	5-0
Lowell	W	5-0
Portage	W	5-0
Chesterton	L	4-1
MHS Doubles Tourney		4th of 8 teams
Lake Central	W	3-2
Crown Point	L	1-4
Jasper Invite		6th of 8 teams
Michigan City	L	3-2
LaPorte	L	3-2
Frankfort Tourney		2nd of 8 teams
Valparaiso	W	3-2
Sectionals		
Gary Roosevelt	W	5-0
Andreon	W	4-1
Regionals		
Chesterton	L	3-2
DAC Record		3-4
Season Record		7-7

Team Honors

MVP	Nina Bezvina
Most Improved	Jessica Savin
Sportsmanship	Callie Lucas
Leadership	Pauline Katsouras



Watching intently as her partner, Sophomore Morgan Zellers, valleys at the net, Senior Jasmine Doyon prepares for the opponent's return. Zellers played No. 2 singles, defeating Andreon's Julie Lozzaro and advancing to the Portage Regional where she lost to Chesterton's Lynn Gockowski.

Boys' T running toward victory

k



One of only two senior distance runners on the team, Cliffard Cook runs the 800 meter race. Cook has been running distance all four years and said, "Running cross-country every year has helped me a lot with track." At the state meet, Cook finished 12th with 1:57.05.



Arching his back to avoid knocking down the pole, Sophomore Carlton Hayles successfully clears 6'4", his best jump this season. Hayles advanced to regionals in the high jump and the hurdles.

With teammate Senior Alec Reeder holding his block, Senior Jerry Williams prepares for the 4x100 meter relay. Williams, a three-sport athlete, stated, "I love running the 4x1 the most. It is such an adrenaline rush!"



Starting off the last leg of the 4x400 meter relay, Senior JRome Tuggle accepts the baton from Senior David Morrow. Merrillville took sixth place in the 400 relay of state. Tuggle won the 400 in 47.65 seconds and finished second in the 200 in 21.70 seconds.

In 1982 the hit movie was E.T. and the hit band was the Flock of Seagulls. 1982 was also the last time the boy's Track Team won the DAC meet. This year the team won the DAC meet held here at Merrillville. First place finishes by JhRome Tuggle in the 400-meter race, Brandon Masley in the pole vault and another first in the 400 meter relay helped the team edge the rest of the pack.

"I can't believe we finally won," said Tuggle. "We always got close and they would always beat us with their depth." The depth this year for the team was not the only thing that helped the team this season. The leadership and the experience from seniors, Tuggle, Masley, David Morrow, Clifford Cook, Ricardo Hernandez, Vincent Cole and Jerry Williams, allowed underclassmen to feel

comfortable on the team. "Being so young, the older guys never treated me like an underclassman. They treated me like a teammate," said freshman Richard Reddick.

The success for the team did not end at the DAC meet. The team won the Crown Point Sectional and garnered second at the Portage regional, advancing to the state meet. Along with the team, four individuals and one four by one team also advanced. Sophomore Dexter Larimore advanced in the shotput, Seniors Clifford Cook in the 800 meter, David Morrow and JhRome Tuggle in the 200 meter, Tuggle again in the 400 meter. The four by one team of Seniors Alec Reeder, Jerry Williams, Onette Gatlin, Vincent Cole, David Morrow and Junior Michael Booker took their team past the regional to state.

Bojan Jovanovic

Team Scores

Valparaiso/Crown Point	L	V-70.5; CP-56; M-40.5
Lake Central	W	M-85; LC-73
Chesterton/Portage	W	M-85.5; P-47; C-34.5
Michigan City/LaPorte	W	M-96; MC-36; LP-35
DAC Meet		1st
Sectionals		1st
Regionals		2nd
DAC Record		6-1

Team Honors

MVP	David Morrow
Most Improved	Onette Gatlin
Sportsmanship	Jerry Williams
Leadership	Alec Reeder



Senior Brandon Masley, Coach Tany Bartalomeo and Senior JhRome Tuggle take a moment during a meet to have a few laughs. The athletes usually have a good relationship with their coaches. "Coach B. acts like a kid and we can relate to him since he is not that old. He's cool," stated Tuggle.



Stepping into his throw, Sophomore Dexter Larimore participates in his favorite of his two events. "I like shot more then discus because it gets you pumped up and you can just have fun," said Larimore.

The Girls' a race for the taking



During warm-ups prior to a meet, Senior Diana Prentoski throws the discus. Prentoski also threw the shot put. She placed second at sectionals and fifth at regionals.



With an opponent on her tail, Senior Christine Leus tries to stretch her lead on her opponent. Leus was one of only a few runners of the two mile run.

Pacing themselves around the track, Junior Sarra Kwell and Sophomore Raquel Guerra race toward the finish line. Both girls were involved in cross country which helped them in the 1600 meter race.



Soaring through the air, Freshman Eniola Akinnade attempts a successful high jump. Akinnade moved to the Merrillville area at the beginning of the school year from Florida.

Merrillville's fastest ladies were going strong as they flashed past the competition on this year 2004 girls' Track Team. The intense training helped them capture the Gary Sectional title, edging out Habart and Crown Point.

The team entered the Highland Regional as one of the favorites, and placed seventh, advancing to the state meet in several events.

At the regional, Allison Dyer placed 6th in the 100 hurdles. Tamara Gaddy came in second in the 100 meter race, just one second behind the winner, and came in second in the 200 meter race also.

Gaddy anchored the 400 meter relay team of Stephanie Neville, Candice Wright and Julie Collins that placed third at regionals and sixth at the state meet.

This year Senior Kenesha Jennings broke the school record, raising the bar for the pole vault competition. She placed first at the Highland Regional

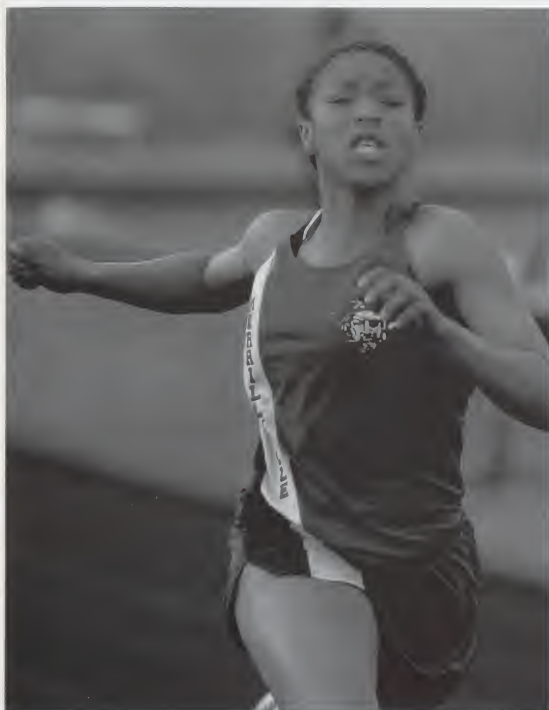
and advanced to the state meet. In the shot put, Diana Prentoski placed fifth at the regional.

Early in the season, the girls worked on their strength; then, toward the end they begin to work on their speed. The 35-member team is coached by Head Coach Joseph Atria and assistant coaches Tony Klimczak and Sean Meagher. Coach Atria has been MHS girls' track coach for the past 19 years.

"Individually the girls are all great," said Senior Tiarah Barker. "All the motivation we get is from the team."

"It's hard to keep them all together, but when they all work together and have the same goals they come together naturally," said Coach Atria.

Rica Merced



After crossing the finish line, Junior Tamara Gaddy slows down to get a chance to catch her breath.

Gaddy was one of the more involved track members, as she ran the 200 and 100 meter dashes and also the 1600 and 400 meter relays. At sectionals, she recorded her personal bests in both the 100 (12.29) and 200 (25.16).

Team Scores

Valpar/Crown Point	UL V:85.5; CP:44.5; M:34
Lake Central	L LC:69; M:54
West Lafayette Relays	3rd
Chesterton/Portage	LW C:72; M:45; P:39
Michigan City/LaPorte	WWW:69; MC:67; L:20
DAC Record	3-4
Season Record	3-4
Sectionals	1st
Regionals	7th

Team Honors

MVP	Tamara Gaddy
Most Improved	Raquel Guerrero
Sportsmanship	Stephanie Neville
Leadership	Kathleen Wilson



Taking flight toward the sand pits, Freshman Jamesha Harris prepares to land. Harris was involved in track as well as field events.

Purple and White Varsity Cheerleading

Head Coach: Lori Gaverit

Front Row: Emily Rodriguez, Kristin Brindley, Nicole Stampor, Tara Schaab, Ashley Dallas, Jodi Suggs, Brianna Yarnell, Cambria Hollingsworth; Back Row: Erica Alata, Kamai Westbrooks, Ashley Thomas, Mark Wienke, Kristen Neese, Ronald Pedraza, Kristy Palster, Kristi Pawlowski, Tricia Lakotas, Collie Lucas.



Freshman Cheerleading

Head Coach: Angela Bartolomeo

Front Row: Angela Cast, Madeline Gaverit; Back Row: Brianne Woodward, Melissa Darang, Lauren Stacks, Katrina Makarounas.



Dance Team

Coaches: Michelle Coughlin, Katrina Rusin

Front Row: Blair Mitchell, Tara Johnson, Tiffany McCauley, Yvette Guzman; 2nd Row: Holly Bechhold, Desiree Walker, Elizabeth Ryan, Mercedes Strickland, Brittany Hamlin, Denise Coleman; 3rd Row: Sara Lopez, Erica Fizer, Jolynn Vargas, Biljana Zizimaski, Ashley Hitchen; 4th Row: Lindsey Alvarez, Melissa Hubbell, Ashley Amez, Shannon Williams, Ashly Janavick, Ashley Woods; Back Row LaChes McLucas, Danielle Nikrin, Asia Carter, Lauren Hultsh, Mallary Harting.



Boys' Cross Country

Coach: Mike Hoffman

Front Row: Chad Noss, Rico Ramos, Dale VanVleet, Kyle Faree, Brett Skarupa, Raymond Duttweiler; 2nd Row: Raymond Tinoca, Christopher Williams, Kevin Wilson, Sean Kavats, Jeremy Adamson; Back Row: Coach Hoffman, Clifford Cook, Ricardo Hernandez, Eric Severson, Justin Floyd, Andrew Caruana, Coach Adam Canard.



Girls' Cross Country

Coach: Bobi Cole

Front Row: Valerie Angatti, Rebecca VanVleet, Raquel Guerrero, Tamara Gaddy, Sarra Kwell, Christine Leus; Back Row: Dyan Darang, Kathleen Wilson, Coach Bobbi Cole, Melanie Maple, Megan Laany.





Girls' Golf

Head Coach: Mike Hamacher

Front Row: Angela East, Ashley Washburn, Janel Barsich, Jacqueline Barsich, Megan Frasca; Back Row: Beth Lashenik, Coach Coach Hamacher, Julie Fabian.



Boys' Varsity Soccer

Head Coach: Brian Past

Front Row: Benjamin Graves, Adam Farag, Jeffrey Jelinek, Aleksandar Risteovski, Brian Albee, Sahson Karim, Vincent Cole; 2nd Row: Amanda Cast, Edwin Moreno, Brad Daniel, Timothy Jelinek, Brian Ruder, Nome Damjanoski, Ashley Gidley; Back Row: Coach Rick Hurey, Jason Kendera, Bojan Javanovic, Coach Brian Past, Gabriel Ziegler, James Mysliwiec, Coach Jeff Fairbairn.



Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer

Head Coach: Rick Hurey

Front Row: Alex Graves, Nicholas Sniederwine, Jeffrey Jelinek, Richard Reddick, Jacob George, Michael Churilla, Nicholas Kaoukis; 2nd Row: Amanda Cast, Dustin Tarr, Benjamin Spires, Keith Dean, Chris Huppenthal, Zach Sperling, Jonathan Ramirez, Vojkan Drljaca, Ashley Gidley; Back Row: Coach Hurey, Joseph Wing, Mladen Sulek, Daniel Enghofer, Coach Brian Past, Nome Damjanoski, Adam Farag, Adam Morris, Coach Jeff Fairbairn.



Girls' Varsity Soccer

Head Coach: Tammy Deel

Front Row: Jenna Baisden, Rosalinda Sanchez, Casey Sieb, Mandy Medelín, Kacey Loudermilk; 2nd Row: Jacquelyn Gurney, Kimberly Jansen, Kalynn Harstad, Vasiliki Rousis, Mallory Hamala, Sarah Vaughn, Emily Czekala; Back Row: Coach Kristi Krooswyk, Alison Conquest, Alyssa Wachter, Shay Kuzma, Julie Collins, Kimberly Sniederwine, Coach Deel.



Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer

Coach: Kristi Krooswyk

Front Row: Magen Fassoth, Andrea Warman, Jamie Sieb, Caitlyn deCourcey, Amber Barnes; 2nd Row: Allana Fleck, Nicole Steriowski, Vasiliki Rousis, Irene Karagiannis; Back Row: Tara Schreiber, Brittany Perry, Coach Krooswyk, Nicole Shudick, Anely Carrera.



Junior Varsity and Varsity Football

Head Coach: Jeff Yelton

Front Row: Edward Flores, Armando Bravo, Jason Mitchell, Robert Toth, Tim Ghoston, Rayshon Richardson, Anthony Curry, David Trajkovski, Alec Reeder, Chad Dawson, Justin Williams, Randall Lester, Mark Abel, Michael Binder, Coli Contreras; 2nd Row: James Crowley, Phil Komisarck, Nicholas Kazonis, John Kuck, Alex Gates, Beau McClendon, John Stoddard, Giancarlo Macapagal, Phillip Keene, Dennis Howell, Thomas Vaul, Evan Parker, Adrian Jones, Brian Kizka, Cedric Rambert, Kevin Clendon, Kevin Olson, Eddie Contreras; 3rd Row: Jervai Drago, Molly Guernsey, Renee Schmellmeyer, Pauline Katsouras, Kim Huryz, Coach Joe Atria, Coach Wilbur Milhouse, Coach Bill Roberts, Coach Tony Klimczak, Coach Jeff Yelton, Coach Ben Parrish, Coach Terry Bartolomeo, Coach Zac Wells, Sean Hudson, Lindsey Richards, Ashley Berger, Rosalinda Sanchez, Katie Komisarck, Genna Wirtz; 4th Row: Richard Pennington, Donnie Hopson, Jerry Williams, Brandon Masley, Dave Placencia, John Hmurovich, Ryan Sorenson, Justin Stanley, Nicholas Pajan, Jeremy Billingsley, Doug Kurczynski, Stephen Lores, Joe Labodinski; 5th Row: Matt Braatz, Dejay Macarthy, Tim Savich, Justin Previs, Fredrick Blue, William Crosby, Kevin Olson, David Wright, Vernando Mayweathers, Onette Gatlin, Tim Bugno, Steven Papamihalakis, Michael Padgett, Dale Lee; 6th row: Kyle Wengel, Richard Breithstein, Bart Woodward, Kevin Marsh, Harry Baskamp, Kyle Loudermilk, Cecil Collins, Josh Raspapovich, Jr Rome Tuggle, Jason Smith, Bryant Person, Sean Kinsey, James Reitz; Back Row: Vance Gidley, Jonathan Woodward, Joseph Purevich, Brandon Jordan, Keir Walker, Trent Harris, Nate Powell, Jonathan Reynolds, Michael Neal, Michael Nason, Kendall Thomas, Matthew Sopka, Dexter Latimore, Virgil Savage



Freshman Football

Head Coach: Luis Lopez

Front Row: Xavier Wilson, Darnell Roberts, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Genesis Rodriga, Drew Dawson; 2nd Row: Sean Gaffney, Jerry Fauch IV, Bradley Kurczynski, Darren Handley, Eric Williams, Benjamin DeLaCruz, Giovanni Macapagal, Brett Beatty; 3rd Row: Andrew Mlenkovski, Ryan Orzechawicz, Coach Matt Ard, Coach Lopez, Coach Derrick Thompson, David Richards, Craig Marshall; 4th Row: Robert Barnes, Larry Mitchell, Brandon Usher, Darryl Fard, Austin Orasz, Cady Dallas, Christopher Burke, Jeffrey Kish; Back Row: Robert Mason, Cordero Arce, Daniel Pelzel, Joshua Raspapovich, Steven Burrey, Jared Martin, Kyle Ruckman.



Boys' Tennis

Coach: Dave Zimmerman

Front row: Courtney Miller, Ashish Arshanapalli, Josh Puzey, Daniel Burkus, Stoten Stofko, Scott Lucas, Lagina Williams; 2nd row: Morgan Zellers, Jared Perkins, Randy Johnson, D.J. Barsich, Patrick Loorden, Wyatt Perkins; Back Row: Coach Zimmerman, Coach Ferrar Levinson, Greg Branda, Drake Branda, Josh Donahue, Coach Alan Branda, Coach James Simon.



Varsity Volleyball

Head Coach: Tania Price

Front Row: Callie Lucas, Lindsey Nasich, Erica Aloia; 2nd Row: Julie DeMuth, Brittany Hush, Virtina Savage; 3rd Row: Coach Price, Stephanie Pavlish, Amy Wedding, Diana Prentoski, Heidi Hammond, Lauren Hellenbeck, Coach Mark Ciesielski; Back Row: Tiana Coleman, Carol Newell.



Junior Varsity Volleyball

Coaches: Michelle Carr, Amy Govert

Front Row: Callie Lucas, Stephanie Pavlish; 2nd Row: Renee Ragon, Glomaira Alvear, Lauren Hellenbeck, Marissa Duncan, Paige Patterson, Amy Gurney; Back Row: Coach Carr, Christina Lobodinski, Chelsie Kelly, Natasha Jennings, Coach Govert.



Freshman Volleyball

Coach: Stacy Anderson

Front Row: Letitia Bella, Michelle Deming, Tiffany Owen; 2nd Row: Vanessa Ramos, Natassa Djuki, Nina Lopez, Ashley Holland, Amy Vargas; Back Row: Ashley Wallace, Lauren Person, Coach Stacy Anderson, Jacqueline Miller.



Boys' Varsity Basketball

Head Coach: Jim East

Front Row: Pedro Torres, Bryce Bonin, Joshua Mayo, Brandon Jones, Anthony Dennis, Blake Bonin, Jonathan Kelley; 2nd Row: Tristen Dawson, Sean Kinsey, Kyle Lauder milk, Curtis Wyatt, Gregory Hill, Dennis Howell, Darrel Auther; Back Row: Coach East, Trainer Sean Hudson, Aaron Marcus, Bajan Jovanovic, Dwayne Mamon, James Reitz, Lavell Cook, Coach Leo Bonin, Coach Lori Dust.

Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball

Coach: Leo Bonin

Front Row: Rico Marriera, Darrel Evans, James Rowe, Roger Pesnaux; 2nd Row: Bryce Bonin, Brandon Jones, Albert Williams, Laron Farrel, Marques Smith, Pedro Torres; Back Row: Daniel Minskey, Rafael, Coach Bonin, Jonathan Reynolds, Vance Gidley.



Boys' Freshman Basketball

Coaches: Jim Vermillion, David Herbert

Front Row: Drew Dawson, David Richmand III, Darren Handley, Rodney Taylor, Terrell Hall, Rahdric Dite; 2nd Row: Andrew Milenkovski, Isaac White, Daniel Dwyer, Joshua White, Steven Burney, Andrew Anderson, David Lobodinski, Jeremy Johnson; 3rd Row: Coach Vermillion, Thaddeus Wilkerson, Joseph Kelley, Joshua Raspopovich, Kyle Banick, Ryan Relpthorpe, Coach Herbert.



Girls' Varsity Basketball

Head Coach: Bob Maicher

Front Row: Chaquilla Tucker, Brittany Ussery, Jessica Gallinatti, Melissa Borom; 2nd Row: Lanesha Thomas, Candice Wright, Kenyetta West, Natasha Jennings, Tiana Coleman, Jacqueline Barsich, Trainer Kim Hurysz; Back Row: Coach Amy Govert, Coach Maicher, Gina Howard, Brittany Hush, Brittny Moore, Julie DeMuth, Marshay Jolly, Coach Stephanie Nelson, Coach Courtney Hardin.



Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball

Coach: Stephanie Nelson

Front Row: Cheryl Harrison, Tamara Gaddy, Angela East, Raquel Guerrero, Chaquilla Tucker; Back Row: Courtney McLeod, Kenyetta West, Coach Nelson, Jennifer Addison, Janel Barsich.



Girls' Freshman Basketball

Coach: Courtney Hardin

Front Row: Jenna Baisden, Tiffany Owen, Latoya Noble, Amber Barnes, Nijah Patton; Back Row: Rachel SanMiguel, Christina Lobodinski, Coach Hardin, Chelsie Kelly, Jessica Falls, Gabrielle Walton.





Boys' Swimming

Coach: Bryan Angerman

Front Row: Christopher Burke, Staton Staffka; 2nd row: Coach Down Malchan, Matthew Douglas, Scott Stephen, Matt Hayes, Thomas Slyke, Coach Angerman; Back Row: Coach Zach Lundrum, Joseph Plukas, Austin Orosz, Benjamin Warman, Coach Rebecca Spinnett.



Girls' Swimming

Coach: Bryan Angerman

Front Row: Whitney English, Jeanelle Morena, Amanda Cast, Rania Kaouk, Renee Regan, Elaine Hall, Christine Leus, Angela Baumann; 2nd Row: Amanda Powers, Melissa Wadley, Ashlee Holland, Nicole Oliveira, Marissa Duncan, Barbara Swetlik, Jacyln Baskamp; 3rd row: Coach Zach Lundrum, Morgan Gill, Lindsey Alvarez, Christine Barnack, Erika Larson, Cara Fejes, Ashley Washburn, Coach Angerman; Back Row: Down Malchan, Katherine Kaplan, Ashley Jones, Cathryn Stupic, Emily Peters, Denise Burney, Sneza Nacovski, Laura Flynn, Coach Rebecca Spinnett.



Wrestling

Head Coach: David Maldonado

Front Row: Alexander Groves, Michael Cameron, Thomas Fitzpatrick, William Conia, Aaron Potter, Kyle Yarnell, Kyle Morris, Gary Nelson; 2nd Row: Armando Bravo, Colt Contreras, Michael Binder, Jarred Gordon, Eric Oria, Milard Trkula, Alexander Ponce, Justin Little, Bradley Kurczynski, Edward Flores; 3rd Row: Ray Bishop, Cedric Rambert, Richard Hauber, Thomas Vechey, Joseph Wing, Jerry Williams, Brandon Usher, Aaron Rodriguez, Jomal Lawrence; 4th Row: Brandon Parks, Justin Gust, Bryan Birmingham, Ryan Wengel, Robert Wahlman II, Jamie Palomo, Matthew Braatz, David Richards II, John Ackermann, Coach Maldonado; Back Row: Coach Rob Petyka, Kyle Wengel, JhRome Tuggle, Nathanael Powell, Eric Miles, Dexter Larimore, Jonathan Woodward, Joseph Szczerba, Coach Gene Bierman.



Varsity Baseball

Head Coach: Zac Wells

Front Row: James Ryan, Daniel Burkus, Brendan Schafer, Chad Dawson, David Jutkus, Matthew Pout; 2nd Row: Darryl Evans Jr., Beaudilo McClendon, Douglas Kurczynski, Alfredo Arredondo, Evan Parker; Back Row: Coach Wells, Jose Ponce, Kevin Marsh, Ryan Donahue, Joson Plys, Adam Farag, Coach Mark Ciesielski.



Junior Varsity Baseball

Coaches: Brad Schulte, Aaron Longacre

Front Row: Rigoberto Zombrano Jr, Justin Burke, Adrian Jones, Matthew Pout; 2nd Row: Brendan Schafer, Jonathan Kuck, Evan Parker, Chad Dawson, David Jutkus; Back Row: Coach Schulte, Phillip Keene, Adam Farag, Joseph Kelley, Michael Padgett, Alfredo Arredondo, Coach Longacre.

Freshman Baseball

Coach: Randy Horka

Front Row: Drew Dawson, Alexander Ponce, Joshua Spence, Bradley Kurczynski, Kyle Morris; 2nd Row: Rohdric Dix, Sherman Daniels, Cody Dallas, Darren Hackett, David Lobodinski, Jeremy Maynard, Darren Handley; Back Row: Coach Rich Plys, Samuel Vesely, Joshua Raspovich, Matthew Caleb Douglas, Coach Horka.



Boys' Golf

Head Coach: Richard Ohlenkamp

Front Row: Genesis Rodrigo, Jett Mihal, Christopher Szala, Jonathan Cabral, Giovanni Macapagal; 2nd Row: Raleigh Ensen, Matthew Leus, Dennis Barsich, Shawn O'Keefe, Dennis Barsich, Matthew Kasperan, Scott Schafer, Ryan Sullivan; Back Row: Stephen Burke, Kristopher Simonovski, Coach Ohlenkamp, Jonathan Woodward, Richard Hartline



Varsity Softball

Head Coach: Amy Govert

Front Row: Kristine Paskash, Lindsey Richards, Erin Ely, Tammy Graboyan, Heather Zurek, Tiffany Owen, Gina Angotti; 2nd Row: Megan Lee, Amy Vargas, Jenna Hill, Ashley Thomas, Heidi Hammond, Rachel Rudolph, Jessica Francis, Nicole Vowell; Back Row: Coach Andrew Niksich, Michelle Paskash, Megan Stacks, Brittany Huth, Coach Govert, Jennifer Mason, Lauren Stacks, Ashley Traina, Coach Stephanie Nelson.



Junior Varsity Softball

Coach: Stephanie Nelson

Front Row: Tiffany Owen, Tiffany Kedziora, Jessica Francis, Tammy Graboyan, Nicole Vowell, Renee Schmeltmeyer, Mary Kate Dixon; 2nd Row: Rebecca Hoover, Tiffany Taylor, Charlene Millard, Ashlee Holland, Jessica Falls, Ashley Thomas, Rachel Rudolph, Megan Lee, Xiomara Vega; Back Row: Coach Andrew Niksich, Jessica Jones, Christina Lobodinski, Brittany Moore, Coach Nelson, Lauren Valradi, Lauren Stacks, Ashley Traina, Head Coach Amy Govert



Girls' Tennis

Head Coach: David Zimmerman

Front Row: Lauren Townsend, Jessica Savin, Carla Emmett, Cassandra Adler, Courtney Miller; 2nd Row: Morgan Zellers, Jasmine Dayon, Katelyn Pruitt, Lindsey Track, Callie Lucas, Nina Bezvina, Krista Dora; Back Row: Leslie Allen, Asst. Coach Dr. Ferrer Levinson, Katherine Coleman, Emily Peters, Coach Zimmerman, Anesia Brown, Pauline Katsouras, Asst. Coach Kim Naspinski, Desiree Walker.





Boys' Track

Head Coach: Jim Johnston

Front Row: David Richmond III, Cameron Jones, Christopher Pyatt, Jay Ramirez, Brett Skorupa, Kyle Foree, Robert Aldrich, Raymond Duttweiler, Benjamin Spires, Colt Contreras, Richard Reddick, Dale VanVleet, Guy Pesnaux; 2nd Row: Matthew Bane, Roymond Tinoco, Julian North, Vincent Cole, Sean Rose, Brandon Usher, Chad Noss, Justin Williams, Joseph Wing, Brian Morrow, Alec Reeder, Scott Saberniak, Randall Laster, Michael Gates; 3rd Row: Xavier Wilson, Rayshan Richardson, Anthony Curry, Brandon Masley, Jeremy Adamson, Nicholas Whitehead, Jason Talbert, Clifford Cook, James Crawley, Jerry Williams, Rickie Crawley, Cedric Van Rambert Jr.; 4th Row: Odell Gordon, Jeffrey Kish, Justin Floyd, Andrew Milenkovski, Don Bhe, Michael Booker, David Richards, Kevin Wilson, Jacob George, Anthony Lucente; 5th Row: Asst. Coach Brian Post, Bryan Ruden, Matthew Crane, Andrew Caruana, Cordero Arce, Timothy Bugno, Onette Gotlin, Ricardo Hernandez, Daniel Enghofer, William West; 6th Row: Asst. Coach Rick Bartolomea, Bart Woodward, Carlton Hoyles, Gabriel Ziegler, James Myslitz, Timothy Savich, Jo'Rome Tuggle, David Morrow, Asst. Coach Mike Hoffman, Asst. Coach Luis Lopez; Back Row: Richard Aleman, Harry Boskamp, Dexter Larimore, Nathaniel Powell, Coach Johnston, Trent Harris, Kendall Thomas, Virgil Savage, Donald York.



Girls' Track

Head Coach: Joe Atria

Front Row: Tyrissha Britcoe, April Echals, Kaneshia Jennings, Jamesha Harris, Sarra Kwell, Tiarah Borker, Tamisha Brown, Tara Schoob, Christine Leux; 2nd Row: Dana Balden, Megan Lacy, Paulette Williams, Eniola Akininade, Nicole Stompor, Kacey Loudermilk, Carmen Pickett, Arielle Anderson, Rosalinda Sanchez, Jocelyn Russell; 3rd Row: Tyanna Marshall, Stephanie Pavlish, Cortina Alderson, Sarah Vaughn, Candice Murphy, Gabrielle Walton, Latanza Jenkins, Meisha Baker, Raquel Guerrero, Brionna Woodward, Tamara Gaddy; 4th Row: Asst. Sean Meagher, Candice Wright, Blair Smith, Alton Conquest, Natalie King, Kathleen Wilson, Julie Collins, Abigail Daidigha, Allison Dyer, Asst. Coach Bobi Cole; Back Row: Asst. Coach Tony Kilmczak, Pamela Johnson, Vertino Savage, Diana Prentaski, Kenyetta West, Stephanie Neville, Courtney McCloed, Takara Houston, Lindsay Solomon, Loreal Blackwell, Coach Atria.

Seniors 2004

Jamie, Happiness is success!

Best wishes for
whatever your dream is.
Your proud parents,
Love,
Mom & Dad



Jamie Kistinger

We're proud of you, Derron.
Dream your dreams,
Set your goals. Go for it!



Derron Spencer

Keep your eyes
on the prize
and God's blessings
will overtake you!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Lisa

You made it!
Good luck on your future.



We love you.
Mom & Dad



Lisa Graf

Congratulations, Ashley!

*As one journey comes to an end,
another begins.*

*Here's hoping your next one
will be as successful as
the one you have just completed.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad, Nick & Cody*



Ashley Dallas



!!! Go Mookie!!! Congratulations, Jacqueline

*For all you have
done and for all you
have yet to do!!!*

Love,

Mom, Dad, Janel, DJ, Ma-maw & Pa-paw



Jacqueline Barsich



"Let nothing dim the light that shines from within."

*Congratulations, Jonathan, on
such an outstanding high school
career! We are so proud of you!*

*Love,
Mom & Dad
Lindsay & Matthew*



Jonathan Warus



Congratulations, Ashley!



We're proud of your
accomplishments.
Set your goals
for a successful future.



Love,
Mom & Dad

Ashley Berger

Congratulations, Megan!



We are proud
of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Ryan



Megan Soberajski

Congratulations,
Missy!



We're proud
of your accomplishments.

Love,
Mom & Dad



"Life isn't about finding yourself.
Life is about creating yourself."

George Bernard Shaw

Go Create!

Love, Mom and Dad

Nicole Stompor





Dear Emily,

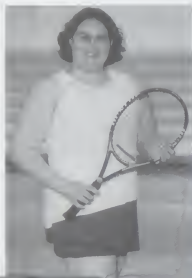
Thanks for making
us so proud!

Love,

Mom and Dad



Emily
Peters



2004



Heather Lynn Casady

Congratulations and best wishes,
Princess!



We are so proud
of you!



Love always,
Mom & Brian



"Follow your dreams
wherever they may lead you."



Jervai Yvon—Cheri Drago

We are proud of you!

Always remember...

There is no failure in not reaching your star,

There is only failure in not having a star for which you are reaching.



Love,

Dad, Mom, Lauren & Amiyah

We are proud of
you, Grace!



Grace Rind

Love,
Your Family

Best wishes for a
successful future!



Cody Camp

Love,
Mom, Dad & Jake

Becca,



Becca Robinson

With Love
and Pride,
Mom

Tiffany,

You have come
a long way.
May your future hold
all that you desire.



Love,
Mom, Grandma
& Grandpa



Tiffany McCauley

We are very proud
of you!
Congratulations!



Rebecca Lee

Love,
Mom, Dad & David

Your future is bright.
May you continue
to shine.



Brandon Masely

God Bless.

We are very proud
of you, Lisa.
Mom, Dad & Luis



Lisa Delafrosa

Heidi —



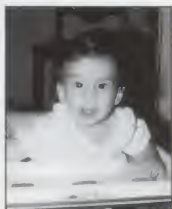
*You've come a long way, baby!
Volleyball, Cheerleading, Softball and more,
we're going to miss it all after 2004. It's been
great! Can't wait to watch you play at Valpo!*



*Lots of Love,
Mom & Dad*

Heidi Hammond

Precious Pauline!



*We congratulate you!
We are so proud
of your accomplishments!
Best wishes for a successful future!*



*Love,
Mom, Dad & Dion*

Pauline Katsouras

Congratulations to our daughter Jasmine Grace



We are so proud of you!

*Love,
Mom & Dad*



Jasmine Dayon

Congratulations, Allison!



We are
so very proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Kate & Shadow



Allison Czubik



Jh'Rome —

Best wishes for
a successful
future.

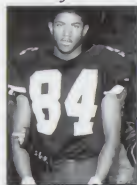


Jh'Rome Tuggle

Dream your
dreams.
Set your goals.
Go for it!



Love,
Mom &
Dad



Shawn,

Follow your dreams.

We know you will
achieve those dreams.

We are so proud of you!



We love you,
Mom & Dad

Shawn O'Keefe

Shoot for the stars, Kimmi!



We are very proud of you!



You will succeed beyond your dreams!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Kimberly Deming

Congratulations, Michelle!



Michelle Rodriguez

We're very proud of you!

*All our love,
Mom, Scott,
Michael & Jennifer*

Congratulations, Sniggles!



Krystal Schmitt

We are proud of you!

*Love,
Dad, Debbie,
Rachel & Sean*

Congratulations, Jackie!



Jaclyn George

*I am so
proud of you!*

*Love,
Mom*

Congratulations, Randy!



*Thank you for all your hard work
and making us so proud!*

*Love,
Mom, Dad &
Pamela*

Randy Johnson



Jennifer —

You're the love of our life
and the music in our hearts!
May your future be
as special as you!



Love,
Mom & Dad

Jennifer Mustata

Congratulations, Jason!

*You have made me so proud!
You've had an outstanding high
school and soccer career! Good luck
with everything you do! I love you!*

Love always,

Mom

Jason Kendera



Congratulations, Brad!

Best of luck
in all you do!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Ben, Tracey & Craig



Brad Daniel

Set your goals for a bright and
successful future. We'll always be
behind you.



We love you!

Best Wishes!

Dedo, Baba, Mom, Tanya, Victor,
Mirche & Elijah

Natalia Toletti

Congratulations, Danny!



Look at what
you're driving now!
We are very
proud of you!



GIT — R — DONE

Daniel Lee

Love,
Mom, Dad & Megan

We're proud of you, Samantha!



You've set your goal!
We know you'll succeed!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Joe & Nanny



Samantha Brazeau

*Congratulations
on your graduation
and all your accomplishments
these past four years.*

*We are very proud of you!
Best of luck & much success
at Purdue!*

*We love you,
Mom & Dad*



Jon Wargo

Congratulations, Megan!

**You are our
shining star!**

**We love you,
Mom & Dad**



Megan Koss

Dominic —

**You are a wonderful young man!
You have made us so proud of you
in so many ways -- your personality,
your talent and your eagerness to succeed.**

**We know your future
will be bright and successful.
We love you more than words can say.
Mom, Grandma, Valerie & Tony**



Dominic Angotti

Tianna,

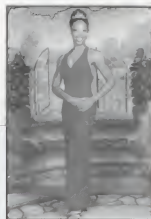


You'll always be our
"Queen." Continue to stay
focused and stay positive.

We love you,

Mom, Grandma, Grandpa, Auntie & Uncle

Tianna Coleman



"When you give your best to life,
Life gives it back to you."

Wishing you a future filled
with all life's best!

Love,

Mom & Dad



Mallory Leigh Charles Hamola

Congratulations, Chrissy!



Chrissy Leus

We are so proud of you!
Never stop reaching
for your dreams!

Love,

Mom, Dad,
Matthew & Lucky

Lindsey —



Lindsey Richards

Thanks for all of the 18 years
of making us so proud.
We couldn't be happier
for all that you've accomplished.
Good luck in all that you do!

You've always been
our "Little Princess!"

Love you,

Mom, Dad, David II, Lacey, Delaney,
Dakota & Baby

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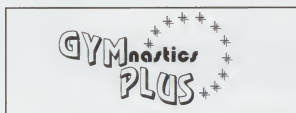
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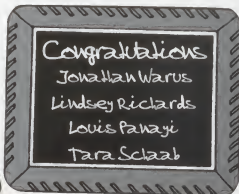
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The Colophon

Merrillville High School is a registered member of Quill and Scroll, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Indiana High School Press Association. Volume 79 of the Merrillvue was produced by the fourth hour yearbook class with the guidance of Editor-in-chief Jamie Kistingner and of the adviser Mrs. Teresa Procter.

Prices of the 2004 book started at \$35 in September, increasing to \$40 in December, and again in May to \$45.

Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke was the sales representative for Walsworth Publishing Company, which published the Merrillvue.

The staff used Adobe Pagemaker, Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word to put the book together. The fonts that were used throughout the book were Maximo for body text and captions, Snooze for the cover and Divider pages, BigFiction for Lifestyles, Constance in Sports, Pesky in Performing Arts, Brackenbold in the Clubs and Activities and People and Christina in the Senior pages.

Underclass and faculty photos were taken by Lifetouch Prestige Portraits. John Bir and his staff at John Gias Photographers took senior portraits, sports, clubs and organizations photos. Mrs. Rose Ann Wilson and Cody Camp also contributed to the collection of photos.

The Yearbook Staff would like to especially thank John and Jeanette Bir of Gias Photographers and their staff, Michael Gard, Steve Itoga and Mike McCordle for their awesome pictures; Valerie T. Tanke, for helping us in all of our crises; the Technology Department; the Athletic Department; Main Office and Guidance Department secretaries; Mr. Mark Ciesielski and the PNN staff, for the morning announcements and PNN commercials to advertise the 2004 Merrillvue. Thank you to everyone!



The Editors Note

As the year ends and the yearbook comes to a close, special attention needs to be given to those who put their hearts and minds into the creation of this year's book.

Most importantly, I would like to thank Mrs. Procter for her patience in dealing with the stresses of the yearbook and the yearbook staff: crazy deadlines, birthday parties, and almost burning her office down due to a minor microwave mishap (thanks Bojan).

I would also like to thank the yearbook staff for the diverse contributions of creativity to the book. Without the chemistry and teamwork among us, we would have never been as successful as we were. The people who leave this room are not the same people who showed up the first day. It was a lot of fun working with you, and I know Mrs. Procter will never have a yearbook staff like us, or at least she hopes not.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to thank all the teachers who cooperated by letting students out and interviewing with us as well. A special thanks to everyone who supplied us with their memories, which is the true backbone of our book.

Again, thanks to everyone for all of their contributions!

Jamie Kistingner

...and throwing away the key

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–1999) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2010 (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop strategies to meet the needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (2000) has identified the need to develop a 'new paradigm' of care for the ageing population, one that is based on the concept of 'active ageing'.

The concept of 'active ageing' is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as 'the process of maximizing the number of years of life spent in good health and free from chronic disease' (WHO 1999).

The WHO (1999) has identified three key components of 'active ageing': (1) the promotion of healthy living, (2) the promotion of social participation, and (3) the promotion of mental well-being.

The WHO (1999) has also identified three key strategies for promoting 'active ageing': (1) the promotion of healthy living, (2) the promotion of social participation, and (3) the promotion of mental well-being.

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